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Daily Report

East Asia

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NOTICE: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Japan

Japan: Fuji Film Executives Comment on Kodak Case

OW1705045296 *Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN*
in Japanese 16 May 96 Morning Edition p 13

[Summary of interview with Masayuki Muneyuki, next president of Fuji Photo Film Co., on 15 May; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Eastman Kodak Co. is a great senior to us in the photographic world. The only thing we can do is develop new products and carry on our business activities to prove ourselves equal to Kodak."

At the 15 May news conference, Masayuki Muneyuki, senior managing director, who has been informally designated the next president of Fuji Photo Film Co., commented on Eastman Kodak's criticism that the "Japanese photo film market is closed to foreign companies." Throughout the news conference, Muneyuki made a modest counterargument. However, since it is Muneyuki's opinion that "Kodak is not making enough business effort," his remarks at the news conference can be understood as pointed cynicism.

On the basis of Section 301 of the Trade Act (negotiation and retaliation against unfair trade practices), Eastman Kodak presented the case with Fuji Film to the U.S. Government. Muneyuki refuted Kodak's action, saying: "Originally, Section 301 is not applicable to the complaint against our domestic business practices. In this regard, they are putting the button in the wrong buttonhole." He is trying to say that the issue of domestic business practice has nothing to do with Section 301 and that the suit itself is irrelevant to Fuji.

Minoru Onishi, who will become the next company chairman, said, "Kodak has not pointed out concrete barriers, either." It sounded as if he was trying to say the appeal is a false charge.

Japan: 'Source' Says Sakamoto Outlines Trade Stance

OW1705154096 *Tokyo KYODO* in English
1531 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, May 17 KYODO — A senior Japanese trade negotiator has sent a letter on Tokyo's position on outstanding trade issues to his U.S. counterpart, particularly reiterating oppositions to discuss the semiconductor and photographic film, a source said Friday.

The source close to bilateral negotiations said Yoshihiro Sakamoto, vice minister for international affairs at Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry,

sent the letter last Thursday to Ira Shapiro, senior counsel and negotiator at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The source said Sakamoto argued that the 1991 bilateral microchip agreement should be terminated when it expires in July, while noting that the two governments should await the results of the ongoing private-sector discussions for their future cooperation.

Sakamoto noted that the accord is "inconsistent" with multilateral trade rules under the World Trade Organization and has been criticized by the international community over "such features as the numerical target and managed trade tendencies," the source said.

The accord includes U.S. expectations for a 20 percent foreign market share in Japan which has already been attained.

Sakamoto also said the two nations must also address European Union's interests and concerns regarding the bilateral arrangements.

On the photographic film and paper issue, Sakamoto rejected U.S. demand for government-level consultations on the grounds that there are no government-erected barriers, and reiterated that Washington should encourage Eastman Kodak Co. to take its complaint to Japan's Fair Trade Commission (FTC) as an antitrust case, the source said.

In this regard, Sakamoto welcomed recent views conveyed by acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky that the FTC "can play an effective role on this issue," the source said.

But Sakamoto voiced regret that U.S. opposition has led to watering down Japan's proposal for a panel at the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to conduct a "neutral case study" on the film markets in Japan and other major countries, the source said.

Washington launched a yearlong investigation last July into Japan's photo film and paper market under the 1974 trade law involving possible trade sanctions.

The move came under a petition filed by Kodak charging Japan's Fuji Photo Film Co. for blocking foreign products through anticompetitive practices in collaboration with the Japanese Government.

As for other trade issues, the source said Sakamoto rapped the United States for continuing to postpone a review session scheduled last December for the bilateral agreement on paper and paper products.

Sakamoto also criticized recent U.S. arguments over a lack of progress in public-sector procurement of

supercomputers, saying it is "inappropriate" for the U.S. to claim Japan as unfair just because the result of procurement or market share of foreign products is not favorable to the U.S., the source said.

Government procurement should be measured by "fairness and transparency" of purchasing procedures," the source quoted Sakamoto as saying.

Sakamoto also expressed "strong" concern that the U.S. Government procurement has never included Japanese supercomputers.

Japan: Business Head: Deal Carefully With U.S. Women, Minorities

OWI805022596 Tokyo KYODO in English 0152 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, May 17 KYODO — A Japanese business leader called Friday for "careful" handling of problems related to "extremely strong" U.S. women and minorities in reference to recent alleged sexual harassment incidents at a U.S. subsidiary of Japan's Mitsubishi Motors Corp.

"In the United States, minorities and women have become extremely strong, and you'll be sorry unless such issues are dealt with carefully," Jiro Ushio, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, told reporters.

Ushio, also chairman of major Japanese special lamp maker Ushio Inc., stopped short of further clarifying his remarks as he spoke at a press conference after a three-day meeting between his association and its U.S. counterpart, the committee for economic development.

Referring to the Mitsubishi issue, Ushio said, "hearing from various people here, many people said it's not really a big case (of harassment), but there are also people who say it is (obviously) harassment."

Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America Inc. is facing a class action lawsuit brought forth by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Committee on behalf of some 500 current and former female employees who say they were harassed at the company's plant in Normal, Illinois.

In addition, 29 women have filed a private lawsuit alleging that sexual harassment occurred at the wholly-owned Mitsubishi subsidiary.

Japan: Tokyo Considers Expanding Logistical Support to U.S. Forces

OWI805002596 Tokyo KYODO in English 2355 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO — The government is considering expanding regions covered by Japan's logistical support for U.S. military operations in times of emergencies to include the Middle East and the disputed Spratly islands in the South China Sea, a major Japanese newspaper reported Saturday [18 May].

If agreed to by the two countries, it would be possible to lay down contingency plans to cope with emergencies in those regions as well as in case of a crisis on the Korean peninsula and disputes between China and Taiwan, the mass-circulation *YOMIURI SHIMBUN* said, quoting government sources.

The move is expected to be part of a proposed review of guidelines for bilateral defense cooperation, intended mainly for possible direct armed aggression against Japan or emergencies elsewhere in the Far East.

Japan and the United States issued a joint declaration in April calling for closer bilateral security cooperation aimed at "possible emergencies in Japan's neighboring regions."

Although the government does not specify the extent of the regions involved, it considers that they go beyond the Far East stipulated in a Japan-U.S. Security treaty, the sources said.

Specifically, the regions include the Mideast, the Malacca Strait between Malaysia and Singapore, and the Spratlys, where crises could pose a serious threat to Japan, they said.

"As for regions other than the Far East, diplomatic rather than military cooperation between Japan and the U.S. will have greater weight, but this is another aspect of security cooperation," a senior Defense Agency official told the daily.

Japan: Article Views Possibility of Joint BMD System Plan

OW2005102296 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed article: "Growing Possibility of Japan's 'Gradual' Participation in the BMD [Ballistic Missile Defense] Plan — U.S. Putting Pressure on Japan With Eye on Emergency Situation in Far East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a growing possibility that the Japanese Government will have no choice but to

take part little by little in the Ballistic Missile Defense system being developed by the United States to counter ballistic missile attack from peripheral nations. This is because the United States, which has been calling on Japan to jointly develop the system, is putting more pressure on Japan, with the Japan-U.S. security arrangements entering a new stage.

Plan Linked With Cooperation in Emergency Situation

U.S. Defense Secretary Perry said: "It has come to be recognized that the ballistic missile threat is much greater. We hope that Japan will pay more attention to the BMD system."

Defense Agency [DA] Director General Usui replied: "It will take some time to come to a conclusion on our participation."

At a Japan-U.S. summit meeting of defense ministers held at the DA on 15 May, the U.S. side, which has been urging Japan to make a decision on its participation in the joint development of the BMD system, seemed to have had the edge on the Japanese side.

If an imminent review of the "Guidelines for Defense Cooperation" is regarded as improvement in the "software" for Japan-U.S. security arrangements for emergency situations in the Far East, the introduction of the BMD system can be regarded as the purchase of "hardware." In this sense, these are two wheels, which are inseparable, for dealing with the fluidity of the post-Cold-War military situations in the northeast Asia.

To gather information necessary for deciding whether they should introduce the BMD system, the DA started collecting information in fiscal 1995. In both fiscal 1996 and 1997, the DA will conduct a survey on the feasibility of shooting down ballistic missiles by running computer simulations.

Since it has been predicted that the total cost will reach several trillion yen if the BMD system is deployed, the government intends to make a careful decision.

However, U.S. pressure had started to gradually increase before Perry's visit to Japan last month.

China's Military Exercises Give Impetus to U.S. Pressure

"Thanks to China's military exercises, we have found out that ballistic missiles would have a serious impact on politics and trade" ... Commander Myers (Lieutenant General) of the U.S. Forces in Japan told in a lecture in Tokyo on 25 March held shortly after the Chinese military's missile drills in the sea near Taiwan, stressing that the time had come for the two countries to seriously

study the BMD system deployment. For the United States, China's missile exercise became a very good reason to call for joint development of the system because "the United States wants to have Japan involved in the plan from the stage of basic research, which requires a huge amount of money and have Japan bear part of expenses" (according to a senior DA official).

Classified Data Disclosed

In February, Japan and the United States concluded an important agreement that may have an impact on the fate of future Japan-U.S. talks on the BMD issue. What they exchanged is "a memorandum of understanding" that Japan was to strictly keep secret information to be given by the U.S. side about missiles. As a result, the level of information on the BMD system has risen exceptionally. At working-level talks on the BMD system, the U.S. delegates gave classified data about ballistic missiles of China and North Korea.

"We have come this far; and, hereafter, it is difficult to say we will not introduce the BMD system," a senior DA official expressed his impatience about the fact that Japan has reached a point of no return. Among those connected with the DA, there is the opinion that "Japan should participate in joint development as early as possible to fit the BMD system to Japan's defense" (according to former Joint Staff Council Chairman Sakuma).

However, there is still the major concern of whether it is technologically possible to shoot down ballistic missiles, which (DA data says) are "more difficult to shoot down than it is to shoot a bullet fired from one rifle by a bullet fired from another rifle." The BMD joint development plan, which Japan is more likely to "take part in gradually," has become a new focal point of Japan-U.S. security arrangements along with a review of the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation and the issues concerning the U.S. military bases in Okinawa.

Japan: Yomitan Rally Draws 5,000 To Protest New Heliport

OW1905061296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0546 GMT 19 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, May 19 KYODO — Some 5,000 people took part in a rally Sunday [19 May] to oppose construction of a new heliport in Yomitan, Okinawa prefecture, to be built in exchange for the return of the U.S. [Marine Corps Air Station] Futenma air station to local landowners.

"We are pleased with the return of the Futenma air station but we will never permit the coming of a new

airfield to Yomitan," Tokushin Yamauchi, chief of the village of Yomitan, told the rally.

The United States agreed in April to return the Futenma base in Ginowan to local landowners within five to seven years as part of plans to scale down U.S. military facilities on Japan's southernmost island.

The interim report of a special bilateral committee on U.S. bases in Okinawa calls for functions at the Futenma base to be shifted to other facilities in Okinawa prefecture, including Kadena Air Base, north of Futenma base, and Iwakuni Marine base in Yamaguchi prefecture, western Japan.

An area stretching to Yomitan is most likely the site for a substitute heliport site.

Referring to a final report by the committee to be issued in fall, Yamauchi said, "We should not let the committee decide (the construction of a heliport) in the final report."

Kazuto Yamauchi, a 31-year-old engineer at the rally, said, "It is meaningless if Futenma air base is shifted to Yomitan upon its return."

"Like at schools near Futenma, noise will affect children's education," he said.

Local residents' call for retrenchment of the huge U.S. military presence in Okinawa, which contributes about 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. military in Japan, has mounted since last September, when a local schoolgirl was abducted and raped by three American servicemen who were later sentenced to prison terms.

Japan: Morodomi Urges Need for Early Decision on Heliport Project

OW2005044096 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 18 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo — Masuo Morodomi, director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, commented on the construction of a new heliport with a runway in an existing U.S. facility on Okinawa in exchange for return of the [Marine Corps Air Station] Futenma. Asked about when the government will make a decision on a site and a scale of the construction, Morodomi said at a news conference held on 17 May: "It will be discussed between Japan and the United States when the United States officially asks for it. However, our time is extremely limited. We want to decide it as soon as possible." In his view a decision should be made before November when the Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee on Okinawa [SACO] is scheduled to present results on Okinawa base reduction.

Regarding the next meeting of the central and Okinawan governments' task force to discuss Futenma's return, the director general said: "Since Okinawa has its own schedule to consider, its prefectural assembly election for example, it may be held in June." He indicated that the next meeting is likely to be held following the 9 June Okinawa prefectural assembly election.

Morodomi also said that the SACO's working group is expected to hold next (the sixth) meeting in Hawaii around 27 May.

Japan: Kajiyama Says Okinawa Heliport Site Still Undecided

OW2005060696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0544 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — Japan has yet to decide on a site for a U.S. military heliport to be transferred from the Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Japan's southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa, a top government spokesman said Monday [20 May].

Chief Cabinet secretary Seiroku Kajiyama made the comments with regard to a rally Sunday by some 5,000 people opposing an idea of a new heliport in the village of Yomitan, Okinawa prefecture, to be built in exchange for the return to local landowners of the Futenma base in the city of Ginowan to local landowners.

The government had negotiated with the United States and set the return of the Futenma base at the request of the Okinawa people, Kajiyama told a press conference.

Plans for the Futenma base assume reduction and adjustment of Okinawa U.S. bases without lowering their military functions, not the abolition of U.S. bases there, he said.

Kajiyama also called on the public and local governments to share Okinawa people's burden of heavy local U.S. military presence.

The U.S. agreed in April to return the Futenma base within five to seven years as part of plans to scale down U.S. military facilities in the prefecture.

The interim report of a special bilateral committee on U.S. bases in Okinawa calls for functions at the Futenma base to be shifted to other facilities in the prefecture, including Kadena Air Base, north of the Futenma base, and the Iwakuni Marine Base in Yamaguchi prefecture, western Japan.

An area stretching to Yomitan is the most likely site for a substitute heliport site.

Japan: Ota Submits Bill for Referendum on U.S. Bases in Okinawa

OW2005111396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0930 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, May 20 KYODO — Okinawa Prefectural Gov. Masahide Ota submitted a draft ordinance to the prefectural assembly Monday [20 May] calling for a public referendum on the reduction of U.S. military bases in Japan's southernmost prefecture.

Proposing a budget bill for some 480 million yen in spending to hold the referendum, Ota told the assembly he supports it "in the interest of full self-government by the citizens."

The move is in response to a petition from the Okinawa branch of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo).

The governor said the request for such an ordinance is "a clear indication that the citizens of the prefecture themselves desire to exercise their sovereignty by participating directly in prefectural affairs related to the reduction and consolidation of bases and a revision of the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement."

The extraordinary session of the assembly ended the same day after referring the issue to a special committee which deliberates on matters related to U.S. bases.

Since a prefectural election campaign will be proclaimed late this month, assembly officials said the committee is planning to hold its hearings June 12 and 14, after the June 9 poll.

They said it will summon Masahiro Toguchi, head of Rengo's prefectural branch.

There is little opposition to such a referendum in the assembly and it is likely the ordinance will be adopted in late June, giving rise to the possibility that Japan's first prefectural-level referendum will be held in the summer.

The Rengo branch gathered some 34,500 valid signatures in support of its petition calling for such a referendum, which it submitted to the governor May 8.

The result of the referendum will not be binding on the U.S. or Japanese Governments, but is expected to have an influence on a final report scheduled for November from a U.S.-Japan committee studying ways to consolidate and reduce the U.S. military presence in Okinawa.

The referendum would ask the Okinawan people whether they want a consolidation and reduction of U.S. military bases in the island prefecture and whether they want a review of the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement.

The agreement, which defines the status of the U.S. military in Japan and the U.S. military presence in Okinawa, came under fire after an Okinawa schoolgirl was abducted and raped last September by three U.S. servicemen now serving prison terms for the crime.

About 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. military in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, although the island makes up only 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area.

Under an agreement reached in April between Japan and the United States, the U.S. military will vacate some 20 percent of the land it now occupies in Okinawa.

Administrative Vice Minister for Home Affairs Hiro-masa Yoshida told a press conference in Tokyo, "It is a local government-instigated debate so we await the decision, but generally speaking there is debate as to whether a referendum is a good or a bad thing in the context of the present indirect democratic system."

Japan: Mahathir Does Not Oppose Japan-U.S. Security Alliance

OW1705143996 Hong Kong AFP in English
0815 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 17 (AFP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad lashed out Friday [17 May] at arms manufacturers and "undeterred balance-of-power enthusiasts" for exaggerating the threats to regional stability in Asia.

"There is a deliberate attempt to minimise what Asia has been able to accomplish over the last generation. There is the most intense marketing of the threats in East Asia," he told a conference of the future of Asia.

Mahathir said there was also a "most serious attempt to throw cold water over the entire East Asian 'miracle', a word we never use because it seems to suggests that our accomplishments were done through magic."

Such views were being spread by those "whose heads are too big for their bodies," the Malaysian prime minister said.

With the end of the Cold War, Mahathir said Asia should reject the idea of a "cold peace" and instead embrace a "warm and cooperative peace", taking into account the fact that the region had not enjoyed such stability for 150 years.

"Many may not have such an interest or aim. Many even in East Asia may not want such a warm and cooperative peace because they have scores to settle, axes to grind, vested interests to protect and other objectives to pursue.

"But it is up to us who believe in an East Asian village of friendship, understanding, trust and goodwill to act to turn the wishes that we carry in our heart into concrete reality on the ground," he said.

Mahathir rejected the notion of basing regional peace on a balance of military power. "Most of us cannot afford the enormous expense," he said.

"Can we all build military machines that can match the military capabilities of China? Who can match the military might of the United States?" he asked. "How does South Korea act to militarily balance Japan? Does Thailand act to militarily balance Vietnam? Does Cambodia act to military balance China?"

Mahathir said he could "see all the manufacturers of weapons rubbing their hands with glee at the very thought" of such a scenario. He urged Asians to "forget the military balance" and "imagine the balance sheets" instead.

"I can hear the response of undeterred balance-of-power enthusiasts — if no single nation can create a balance of power on its own, create alliances."

But the prime minister questioned the viability of alliances against major powers such as China, the United States, Japan or Indonesia.

"It is silly. If we treat nations as if they are the enemy of tomorrow, they will rapidly be the enemy of today. If we act today to deal with tomorrow's imagined threat, what is imagined will become a reality before tomorrow comes.

We will be amazed out how fast a potential threat will become a real threat."

Asked about the security alliance between Japan and the United States, recently strengthened to include areas "surrounding" Japan, the Malaysian prime minister said he did not oppose it as such.

But "it seems to assume that those not in the alliance are potential enemies," he added.

If anything, Mahathir continued, Japan and the United States could perhaps forge a security alliance with China and South Korea. "That leaves out North Korea and I don't think they can do very much," he said.

Japan: Australia's Fischer Scores U.S. Gun Lobby

*OW1705130796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1137 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO — Australia is taking a "balanced and tough approach" to gun control in the wake of last month's killing of 35

people in Port Arthur, Tasmania, Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer said Friday [17 May] in Tokyo.

Fischer said this is epitomized in an agreement reached last week between Australia's six state governments and the federal government for the introduction of a nationwide gun registration scheme and a complete ban on all automatic weapons, except for military use.

Fischer, who is in Tokyo on an official visit to explain the Liberal-National Party coalition government's Asia policy, made the remarks at a press conference.

Fischer said the new gun laws "will help boost safety for tourists and Australians generally."

But he also criticized extremists in the U.S. gun lobby for their influence over their Australian counterparts.

"The world could do with a lot less export of extremist rhetoric from the rifle lobby element from the U.S.A.," Fischer said.

"This extremist rhetoric refers to the right to carry guns backed by using blood, and I totally and absolutely reject it," he said, adding, "the use of that extremist rhetoric has destroyed the credibility of so much of the gun lobby."

Japan: Australia's Fischer Urges More Trade Liberalization

*OW1705131096 Tokyo KYODO in English
1128 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO — Australian Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer urged Japan on Friday [17 May] to continue to promote the cause of trade liberalization as well as Australia's own efforts to strengthen ties with East Asia.

Fischer, who is visiting Tokyo to explain the Asia policy of his Liberal-National Party coalition government, said in a press conference that Australia is committed to "keeping up the momentum of trade and investment liberalization" through the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"The WTO is central to the trading interests of both Australia and Japan," he said. "The WTO should be at least as ambitious as regional arrangements in pursuing trade liberalization."

Fischer said the role of the WTO in achieving trade liberalization should be a major theme during the next meeting of APEC trade ministers in Singapore.

He said Japan is Australia's largest trading partner with almost a quarter of Australia's exports going to Japan.

"And Japanese investment in Australia, which currently stands at around 49 billion Australian dollars, continues to play a major part in Australia's economic development," Fischer said.

He also said Australia "fully supports" Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. "The sooner, the better," he said.

Fischer refused to reveal how a current Australian Government review of spending will affect the future of sections of the country's bureaucracy, specifically established by the previous Labor Party administration to promote bilateral trade with Japan.

"Every care will be taken to minimize the impact on our promotional efforts, but there will be changes and we will have to maximize every single dollar and every single resource Australia has in Japan and the rest of Asia and throughout the world," Fischer said.

Fischer, who also heads the National Party, became deputy prime minister and minister for trade after his party, in coalition with the larger Liberal Party, defeated the Labor Party in a March 3 election.

Japan: U.S.-PRC Trade Dispute, WTO Membership for PRC Viewed

OWI805143396 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 May 96 Morning Edition p 3

[Editorial: "U.S., China Urged To Avoid Worsening Trade Ties"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Negotiations between the United States and China on protection of intellectual property rights for U.S.-made compact disks (CD) and other such products have broken down, and the U.S. Government announced a list of Chinese goods subject to retaliatory tariffs, which amount to \$3 billion dollars in total.

Most of the products in the list are textile and electronic goods, which are China's main exports.

In return, China announced its plan to take punitive measures by imposing special tariffs on U.S. cars, communications equipment, and other imports if the U.S. sanctions take effect.

The United States and China are important trading partners. The domestic economy of both countries will be severely hurt should this dispute develop into a retaliatory battle. People are somewhat afraid that, if relations between the two countries are damaged in the wake of the dispute, it will have a negative impact on the stability and development of the global economy and politics.

Cooperation between the United States and China is indispensable to settle the tasks looming, including successfully negotiating the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and realizing quadrilateral talks to stabilize the Korean peninsula.

Meanwhile, the United States is showing a flexible stance. Among other things, it firmed up a policy that extends most favored nation status to China. It seems that China is also willing to avoid a retaliatory confrontation. We hope that both countries will resume negotiations soon and do their best to resolve the problem through discussions.

In February last year, both countries agreed, among other things, to shut down Chinese factories that are making pirated CD's and to improve the access of U.S. products into Chinese market.

However, the United States insists that China continues to violate intellectual property rights by producing pirated CD's and other products even after the agreement. However, China stressed the results it has had since the agreement, including shutting down the factories. They are unable to resolve the problem.

U.S. industrial organizations announced that the amount of losses caused by the violation of intellectual property rights, including the production and export of pirated CD's, reached \$2.3 billion last year.

It is difficult to guess whether that figure is accurate. In any case, judging from the fact that Hong Kong customs authorities seized a large quantity of Chinese-made pirated CD's early this week, it seems certain that China did not make remarkable improvement.

The Chinese Government needs to take effective measures to improve the situation by instituting tough, wider-ranging controls on the manufacturing and exports of pirated products.

The U.S. Government has set a 17 June deadline for China to take appropriate actions, such as shutting down factories producing pirated CD's. This attitude also presents a problem.

The threat of unilateral sanctions, such as in the case of the Japan-U.S. automobile talks last summer, is a tactical move aimed at making a trading nation accept certain demands. However, this strategy not only tends to repel the trading partner but also goes against the spirit of free trade under the World Trade Organization.

The United States is opposed to China's becoming a member of the WTO until it meets certain obligations, including a sharp reduction of tariffs to bring them in line with those of the developed countries.

One-and-a-half years after the establishment of the WTO, the organization has just begun to operate smoothly and plans to hold its first ministerial meeting in December. It is not beneficial for China or WTO members to leave China out in the cold.

Japan and the European Union, which appreciate China's expressed intention to advance its schedule for reducing tariffs on mining and manufacturing goods as well as agricultural products, favor WTO membership for China.

It is essential to allow China to join the WTO, promote free trade under the multinational rules, and put a system in place as soon as possible to resolve trade disputes.

Japan: U.S.-PRC Squabble Over Sanctions Puts MITI in Dilemma

OW1905075496 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 May 96 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] has its "hands and feet tied up" due to squabbling between the United States and the PRC over a possible exchange of trade sanctions in regard to the alleged Chinese violation of the intellectual property rights. At a 16 May news conference, Tomio Tsutsumi, administrative vice minister of MITI, stressed that Japan takes a neutral stance on the issue, simply saying: "We hope the United States and the PRC will discuss the matter energetically." Although both the PRC's policy on intellectual property rights and the United States' sanctions-oriented arguments are matters of deep concern to Japan, the Japanese Government appears to be in a dilemma as it can neither openly voice criticism nor support.

At previous Japanese-U.S. trade negotiations, MITI has repeatedly expressed strong opposition to unilateral sanctions, saying: "Unilateral sanctions run contrary to the spirit of the World Trade Organization (WTO)." Consequently, Japan cannot side with the United States. This time, however, MITI's remarks appear evasive since it is saying that "as long as the PRC does not belong to the WTO, it cannot be said that the PRC is clearly violating the WTO rules," (as stated by Tsutsumi).

Japan cannot criticize the United States because it is also aggravated by the problem of Chinese violation of the intellectual property rights. Japan has suffered losses due to massive circulation of imitation Japanese brand household electronic appliances in China. It was just recently that MITI Councilor Yoshihiro Sakamoto lodged a complaint with the Chinese Government when he visited the country in mid-April. Japan apparently feels that if the intellectual property rights issue should be straightened out as a result of the U.S. threats

to impose sanctions, Japanese companies would also benefit from it.

One possible way to settle the problem is to have the WTO step in as a mediator. However, the PRC would first have to be admitted as a member to the trade organization. At the quadrilateral trade talks in April, MITI Minister Shunpei Tsukahara tried to convince the United States to agree to admitting the PRC to the WTO, but acting U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Charlene Barchefsky retorted: "The PRC has no intention to protect intellectual property rights." Currently, negotiations over the PRC's WTO membership remain deadlocked.

MITI is concerned that Japanese companies' products manufactured locally in the PRC may be jeopardized as a result of possible U.S.-PRC sanctions war. While grumbling that "we do not have much access to necessary information because we are a third party," (according to an official at the MITI International Trade Policy Bureau), MITI is trying desperately to collect information behind the scenes. It appears that instead of exercising its negotiating ability to act as a mediator between the United States and the PRC, MITI can only pray that sanctions will be avoided.

Japan: MITI To Help PRC With Intellectual Property Rights Problem

OW1905075596 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 May 96 Morning Edition p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Seeds of trouble still remain between Japan and the PRC over patents and trademarks on Japanese products as the United States and the PRC fall into deeper strife over threats to impose sanctions over the issue of protecting intellectual property rights surrounding compact discs (CD's) and other products.

In March 1995, Chinese authorities nailed a manufacturer that was illegally copying a video game machine and software belonging to Sega Enterprises and a store selling the products. In addition, there have been reports of damages due to such products as imitation Honda motorcycles and dry cell batteries with logos resembling the Toshiba logo circulating in the PRC.

In a survey by the Patent Office, Japanese firms have reported cases in which their trademarks and designs were copied. Therefore, "it cannot be said that the situation in the PRC regarding violation of intellectual property rights has improved," (according to an official at the Patent Office's International Affairs Division).

MITI hopes that the United States and the PRC will discuss their ongoing dispute. At the same time, it plans to help the PRC improve its intellectual property rights system.

As concrete measures, MITI plans to provide the PRC with Japan's English-language-version database on patents and help it computerize patent examination procedures and perusal system. In addition, MITI plans to throw its support behind the PRC in improving its patent examination process and regulatory system by promoting further exchanges between Japanese and Chinese experts.

Japan: Golan Heights Peace Mission Expansion Explored

OW2005041596 Tokyo *YOMIURI SHIMBUN*
in Japanese 17 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On 16 May, the government started exploring the possibility of expanding missions of the Self Defense Forces [SDF] personnel assigned to UN peacekeeping operations (PKO) in the Golan Heights. The government study is in response to the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) headquarters' request that "in addition to the present transportation coordination mission, SDF personnel carry out overall coordination of rear support." To expand SDF personnel's missions requires revising the "PKO Implementation Program." Basically, the government intends to accept this if the United Nations makes a proposal.

Japan: Tokyo Decides To Provide UNDOF With Trucks for PKO

OW2005125196 Tokyo *NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN*
in Japanese 17 May 96 Evening Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On 17 May, the Japanese Government decided to provide trucks to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force [UNDOF], which is engaged in UN-led peacekeeping operations in Golan Heights. The Self-Defense Forces [SDF] have participated in the UNDOF since the end of February and performed transportation duties. The trucks that the SDF is currently using are those used by the Canadian forces before and have broken down frequently.

Japan: Ikeda Scheduled To Meet German Foreign Minister

OW1605162696 Tokyo *KYODO* in English
1509 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda will meet German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel next Monday [20 May] in Bonn, ministry officials said Thursday.

They are expected to discuss the relationship between the two countries, support for Russia and reform of the United Nations, among other topics, the officials said.

The meeting was set at the request of Kinkel when the two met at the Asia-Europe meeting in Thailand in March, the officials said.

It will be the first visit since May 1991 by a Japanese foreign minister to Germany, they said.

Coordination is also under way for Ikeda's meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the officials said.

Ikeda will leave for Germany on Sunday afternoon and talk with Kinkel over lunch, the officials said.

Ikeda will go on to Paris for a ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and return home May 23, they said.

Japan: OECD Said 'Facing Identity Crisis'

OW1805062996 Tokyo *KYODO* in English
0457 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO — The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), long considered a "club of rich western nations," is now facing an identity crisis with an end of the Cold War and emerging Asian economies.

The issue of identity is expected to be at the top of the agenda at a two-day ministerial council meeting of the OECD that will start in Paris next Tuesday [21 May].

There have been growing voices that the OECD is no longer an economic think tank of industrialized countries that guide the global economy.

What has been changing the OECD from a "rich nations" club" is an increasing number of new member countries, particularly from the former communist bloc.

The Paris-based OECD was created in 1961, replacing the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), which was founded in 1948 in connection with the Marshall Plan for rebuilding war-ravaged Europe.

The OECD currently groups 27 nations. Hungary became the 27th OECD member in early May, following the Czech Republic in 1995 and Mexico in 1994.

"The OECD is in a transitional period. The increase in the number of member nations in the past years reflects the disappearance of an east-west framework following an end of the Cold War," said Makoto Taniguchi, deputy secretary general of the organization.

OECD Secretary General Jean-Claude Paye acknowledges that one of the pressing tasks for the institution is to redefine its *raison d'être*.

Paye said that as it is becoming increasingly difficult to draw lines between the south and the north and between

the east and the west, the OECD has to discuss what its member nations want to do and what organization they hope for.

In addition to the collapse of the Cold War structure, the emergence of the rapidly growing Asian economies is also shaking up the OECD.

A Japanese Government source said, "the global economy can no longer be led by industrialized countries alone."

"With a shift in world attention toward emerging Asian economies, the OECD's role is being replaced by the World Trade Organization (WTO)," the source said.

The Geneva-based WTO was created in January 1995 as the new world trade watchdog, succeeding the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT).

At their upcoming Paris meeting, the OECD ministers are expected to discuss the conclusion of a multilateral agreement for investment and tighter rules against bribing foreign governments officials by private companies seeking to win contracts for public projects.

The envisaged accord and rules are intended to establish relationships among emerging economies in Asia and other regions for effective investment and fair trade.

Since the OECD has no emerging Asian economies as its members, however, Leon Brittan, vice president of the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union, is calling for discussing the two issues also at the WTO.

The WTO has more than 100 members countries, including developing countries and emerging Asian economies.

The OECD's Taniguchi said although the OECD has lost its role of piloting the global economy, it is still important in the world arena as a policy coordinator.

"The OECD no longer plays a leading role in discussing currency policy and trade issues. The organization, however, is worthy of existing in view of providing countries with a place for informally exchanging views before full-fledged negotiations," Taniguchi said.

Ahead of their annual economic summit, the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries coordinate views on many summit themes through the opportunity provided by the OECD's ministerial council meeting, he said.

Taniguchi also said such matters as Newly Industrializing Economies (NIEs) and intellectual property rights were brought about by the OECD.

"The OECD has many highly skilled experts and its function as a research institution that detects future problems and issues warnings against them is precious," he said.

Japan: Foreign Minister Ikeda Leaves for OECD Meeting

*OW1905051896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0455 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 19 KYODO — Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda left Tokyo on Sunday [19 May] afternoon for Paris to attend a ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) opening there Tuesday, ministry officials said.

Ikeda will meet German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel in Bonn on Monday before flying on to the two-day OECD meeting in Paris, the officials said.

Ikeda is scheduled to return home on Thursday, they said.

Japan: Tsukahara Leaves for Paris To Attend OECD Meeting

*OW2005062996 Tokyo KYODO in English
0351 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Shunpei Tsukahara left for Paris on Monday [20 May] to participate in the ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) next week, trade ministry officials said.

Tsukahara will join Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and Shusei Tanaka, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, to represent Japan at the meeting Tuesday and Wednesday.

On the meeting's agenda will be growth and employment, further strengthening of multilateral trade systems, and the future of the 27-member OECD.

Tsukahara is also expected to meet for bilateral talks with European Commission Vice President Leon Brittan and other counterparts during the two-day meeting, the officials said.

Tsukahara is scheduled to return to Japan on Thursday.

Japan: Mayors Leave for Geneva Calling for Abolition of Nuclear Test

*OW1805061296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0327 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO — The mayors of Nagasaki and Hiroshima left for Geneva

on Saturday [18 May] to call for the abolition of nuclear testing by nations participating in a conference for conclusion of the proposed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Nagasaki Mayor Itcho Ito and Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka, although not allowed to attend the meeting, will speak about the experiences of their cities, the only cities in the world hit by nuclear bombs, and about the threat of nuclear weapons.

Ito and Hiraoka are scheduled to meet the ambassadors in charge of disarmament from the nuclear powers of the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain on Monday and Tuesday.

The mayors are also slated to meet officials from India and Pakistan, both countries suspected of developing or possessing nuclear weapons, and the Netherlands, chair nation of the conference, during the two-day period.

The conference started in Geneva on Monday to negotiate the treaty aimed at banning all nuclear tests, including simulated explosions.

Ito and Hiraoka will hold meetings with officials of Geneva and other European cities that are members of a world municipal peace movement to talk about their next steps in pursuit of the abolition of nuclear weapons after conclusion of the CTBT.

They will return to Japan on Wednesday.

Japan: World Bank To Support Russia With Transition Efforts

*OW1705124896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0930 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO — The World Bank will continue to support Russia if the former Soviet republic pursues a free-market economy, regardless of the results of June's presidential election, Bank President James Wolfensohn said Friday [17 May].

"Regardless of who gets into power, we will take a look at policies of new government, and if those policies promote growth, transition and elimination of poverty, we will support those policies as we do in any country," Wolfensohn said in a news conference at the Japan National Press club in Tokyo.

The bank is not permitted to have a political view, he said.

The June election is expected to become a head-to-head clash between President Boris Yeltsin and Communist Party candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov.

Wolfensohn, who arrived in Tokyo on Thursday morning, met with Japanese political and business leaders, including Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Finance Minister Wataru Kubo.

He will leave Tokyo on Friday night to visit Switzerland and Russia. In Moscow next week, Wolfensohn is scheduled to hold talks with President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Wolfensohn said he and Chernomyrdin will review a "full range" of the bank's lending programs to Russia, which is in a transition from a centrally planned economy to a free-market economy.

Based on the review, the bank and Russia will discuss ways for future support of Russia by the lending institution, Wolfensohn said.

Wolfensohn said that as one of its economic themes, the upcoming summit meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries is expected to deal with a framework jointly proposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to resolve debt problems of heavily indebted nations.

"I believe the framework will be discussed at the G-7 meeting in Lyons," said Wolfensohn, who is invited to attend the summit.

The framework proposal came at a semiannual meeting in May of the joint development committee of the bank and the IMF.

It calls for use of existing mechanism and new arrangements, including contributions by international lending institutions from their own resources and appropriate action by the Paris Club of creditor nations.

The proposal is now being discussed in both aid-donor and recipient countries, and a conclusion on whether to approve the framework proposal should be reached by the next meeting of the joint development committee this fall, Wolfensohn said.

On the bank's streamlining efforts, meanwhile, Wolfensohn said the issue should be considered in view of how successful the bank will be in its lending projects, fight against poverty and efforts to seek sustainable growth.

"I'm not starting with the number of people. I'm starting with the concept that you judge the bank by its effectiveness, not by its bureaucratic process," he said.

Japan: New APEC Group Scheduled To Meet in Manila 15-16 Jun

OW2005093596 Tokyo KYODO in English
0828 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — A brand-new advisory group to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum will hold its inaugural meeting in Manila on June 15-16, informed sources said Monday [20 May].

The founding session of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) will bring together up to three representatives from each of the 18 APEC member economies and define its role as an advisory panel to APEC leaders, the sources said.

The establishment of the council as successor to the now-defunct Pacific Business Forum (PBF), which was also an advisory body to the APEC forum, was decided upon at the regional grouping's ministerial and summit talks in Osaka last November.

ABAC is supposed to offer recommendations at this year's APEC high-level talks in Manila in November on a set of guidelines on trade liberalization and investment facilitation, which were adopted in Osaka.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto appointed three businessmen — Minoru Murofushi, president of Itochu Corp., Nobuo Tateishi, chairman of Omron Corp., and Kenzo Nakagawa, president of Showa Plastics Co. — as Japanese representatives to ABAC.

Murofushi and Tateishi were the two Japanese delegates to the PBF, which put forward recommendations to APEC leaders in 1994 and 1995. Tateishi will skip the upcoming Manila meeting.

APEC, founded in 1989, is comprised of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

The forum is scheduled to hold this year's ministerial meeting in Manila on Nov. 22-23 and summit meeting in Subic on Nov. 25.

Japan: Hashimoto Criticizes DPRK Armistice Violations

OW1805074696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0731 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO — Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Saturday [18 May] violations of an armistice agreement by North Korean soldiers at the border truce village of Panmunjom show North Korea is growing impatient in

trying to persuade the United States to enter bilateral negotiations for a peace treaty.

The latest violation occurred Friday when seven armed North Korean soldiers made a temporary incursion into the demilitarized zone.

"At present, South Korea and the United States are responding coolly and I'm relieved," Hashimoto told reporters.

U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the incursion "obviously" violated the armistice agreement that ended the three-year Korean war in 1953, and Washington will seek an explanation from Pyongyang.

In April, North Korea declared it would no longer follow its obligations under the truce accord, calling it out of date, and sent heavily armed troops three times into a sensitive buffer area in the border village of Panmunjom.

The U.S. and South Korea proposed last month the two countries plus China and North Korea meet to discuss lasting peace on the divided peninsula, but the north has not made a formal reply.

Japan: DPRK Official on 4-Way Talks, Normalization Talks

OW2005104996 Tokyo KYODO in English
1024 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 KYODO — North Korea hopes Japan will resume bilateral normalization talks early and separately from proposed talks on peace on the Korean peninsula among China, North and South Korea, and the United States, a North Korean diplomat said Monday [20 May].

"Japan is saying it will deal with the issue (of how to resume the normalization talks) depending on North Korea's response to the quadrilateral talks. It's enigmatic," first vice foreign minister Kang Sok-chu told a group of Japanese reporters traveling in the country at the invitation of a Foreign Ministry-affiliated think tank.

"Improvement of relations between North Korea and Japan is an urgent issue. The two countries are close geographically, but have a most distant relationship. If Japan makes an apology for the past and give compensation, the problem will be resolved easily," Kang said.

Tokyo and Pyongyang began normalization talks in early 1991, but the dialogue broke down in late 1992 when North Korea rejected Japan's demand for information about a Japanese woman allegedly abducted by North Korean agents.

Japan, which held the Korean peninsula under colonial rule from 1910 to 1945, normalized ties with South Korea in 1965 but has no official ties with the North.

A mission from Japan's ruling coalition agreed with the Workers Party of Korea, or the North Korean Communist Party, on early resumption of the talks last March, but no substantial progress has been made so far.

Kang said the North Korean Foreign Ministry will be responsible for the normalization talks instead of the Workers Party of Korea.

"What is directly in charge of the resumption of the normalization talks and improvement in bilateral relations is our country's foreign ministry. The Japanese foreign ministry must discuss issues over the past with the foreign ministry," he said.

On the proposed four-way peace talks, Kang said Pyongyang is awaiting more details which he said Washington has promised to offer.

"We'll brush aside (the proposal) if it turns out to taste bitter but we'll accept it if we can," he said.

Kang shrugged off a Western view that North Korea is on the verge of collapse and said that Workers Party of Korea Secretary Kim Chong-il has "correctly succeeded" to the late Kim Il-song's policy of creating a new society.

But Kang said he cannot say when Kim will assume the presidency, which has been vacant since the death of his father in 1994.

"The secretary has played a leadership role in all aspects of the state, the party and the military since 30 years ago, so it is not the case that he can't engage in state operations without assuming the presidency," Kang said.

In other remarks, Kang criticized a Japan-U.S. agreement last month on promoting bilateral defense cooperation.

"It is based on the assumption that North Korea will wage war on the Korean peninsula, so it should increase mutual distrust between North Korea and Japan," he said.

Japan: Official Says 4-Way Talks Prerequisite for Bilateral DPRK Talks

*OW2005131796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1309 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — Japan will not resume normalization talks with North Korea unless proposed talks among China, North and South Korea and the United States on peace on the

Korean peninsula materialize, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Monday [20 May].

"If North Korea rejects the quad talks, a North-South dialogue will not occur," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The official made the remarks when asked by reporters for comments on a proposal made by Kang Sok-chu, North Korea's first vice foreign minister, that Japan resume the talks early and separately from the quadrilateral talks.

The official said Tokyo has to make a decision on when to resume the normalization talks in view of Japan-South Korean relations and U.S.-North Korean relations.

"We must think of how to resolve a jigsaw puzzle involving Japan-South Korean relations, U.S.-North Korean relations and Japan-North Korean relations in respect to the overall situation," the official said.

Japan and North Korea began normalization talks in early 1971, but the dialogue broke down in late 1992 when North Korea rejected Japan's demand for information about a Japanese woman allegedly abducted by North Korean agents.

Japan, which held the Korean peninsula under colonial rule from 1910 to 1945, normalized ties with South Korea in 1965 but has no official ties with the North.

Japan: LDP, Sakigake Oppose Meeting DPRK Mission

*OW2005125996 Tokyo KYODO in English
1254 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — Two of the three parties making up the ruling coalition said Monday [20 May] they oppose meeting a North Korean Government mission unless Pyongyang agrees with proposed quadrilateral talks on peace on the Korean peninsula, party officials said.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and New Party Sakigake made their case when their policymakers met with counterparts from the other coalition partner, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), they said.

"The LDP and Sakigake can't meet (with the proposed North Korean mission) unless the quadrilateral talks are realized and the North-South dialogue is agreed upon," Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, told reporters.

"It's meaningless to have a meeting that does not involve the three parties," he said.

Meanwhile, the SDP reaffirmed its policy of inviting a delegation from the Workers Party of Korea to Japan in late May to pave the way for resumption of normalization talks between the two countries.

Japan and North Korea began normalization talks in early 1971, but the dialogue broke down in late 1992 when North Korea rejected Japan's demand for information about a Japanese woman allegedly abducted by North Korean agents.

Japan, which held the Korean peninsula under colonial rule from 1910 to 1945, normalized ties with South Korea in 1965 but has no official ties with the North.

Japan: MOFA Official Discusses DPRK Situation, 4-Way Talks

OW2005143696 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Shunji Yanai, Ministry of Foreign Affairs councillor, with unidentified ASAHI SHIMBUN reporter; place and date not given; first paragraph is ASAHI SHIMBUN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Japan, the United States, and South Korea held the second vice ministerial meeting on South Korea's Cheju Island to discuss the handling of North Korea (DPRK). The three countries confirmed that food aid to this communist state will be postponed for the time being.

We asked Foreign Ministry Councillor Shunji Yanai, who attended the meeting, about what was actually discussed concerning the food situation in North Korea, and when the stalled Japan-DPRK normalization talks will be resumed.

[ASAHI SHIMBUN] Have there been any changes in the DPRK situation since the first talks with the three nations in January?

[Yanai] Its military situation has not changed much, but the food and the economic situations are getting worse. I do not know accurate figures about how much storage the DPRK has, and how much food has been sent from China. However, I think that things are tough since its food storage from last year will be running low in the June-July off-crop season.

[ASAHI SHIMBUN] Will it not lead to the collapse of the current political system?

[Yanai] I do not think that it will immediately result in the collapse. Although Secretary Kim Chong-il has not been officially appointed DPRK president nor general secretary, he may be holding actual control over the Workers' Party of Korea, the government, and the

military. This is a shared view by Japan, the United States, and South Korea.

[ASAHI SHIMBUN] After analyzing the current DPRK situation, the three countries decided that "no aid will be sent for the time being." Does this expression "for the time being" have some implications?

[Yanai] There has been no official aid request or approach to international organizations from the DPRK. No one knows clearly how serious the food situation is, and we are not sure that we have enough surplus to support the DPRK. We have not yet discussed what to do when the DPRK asks for help from international organizations.

[ASAHI SHIMBUN] Will Japan consider sending aid if the DPRK officially asks for it?

[Yanai] I can neither say we will or will not consider it. Nothing has been decided yet.

[ASAHI SHIMBUN] Are there any prospects for the DPRK accepting the quadrilateral talks proposed by both the United States and South Korea?

[Yanai] I heard that the DPRK has asked many questions such as "what will be discussed" or "who will be attending the talks." If that country had no intention to hold the talks, it would flatly reject the offer. However, the DPRK is also trying to make a deal with the United States, ignoring South Korea. We should strive to seek the DPRK's attendance at the quadrilateral talks.

[ASAHI SHIMBUN] Will the Japan-DPRK normalization talks be resumed after realizing the quadrilateral talks?

[Yanai] It is hard to say. Japan has no intention of conducting negotiations on the resumption while no progress is being made in holding the North-South Korean talks and the quadrilateral talks. This does not mean that we will do nothing to resume the normalization talks until the quadrilateral talks start. I believe that resumption should be considered by observing the overall situation.

[ASAHI SHIMBUN] If the DPRK refuses to attend the quadrilateral talks, how will Japan, the United States, and South Korea react?

[Yanai] Even if the DPRK refuses it, I believe we must make efforts to obtain its attendance since there are no effective alternatives.

Japan: Tokyo Welcomes Inauguration of Taiwan President

*OW2005034096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0323 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — Japan welcomed the inauguration Monday [20 May] of Li Teng-hui as Taiwan's first directly elected president.

"The president was elected in a democratic way, which is hopeful for China," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a press conference.

Kajiyama, the top government spokesman, also praised Li's offer in his inauguration address to talk with China's leaders.

Japan: Tokyo Hopes for Resumption of Taiwan-PRC Dialogue

*OW2005111296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0941 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — Japan hopes that Taiwan and China will reopen dialogue to resolve their long-standing sovereignty dispute on the heels of Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui's call for peace across the Taiwan Strait, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Monday [20 May].

"We strongly hope that Taiwan and China will restart dialogue as a step toward the resolution of this issue," Vice Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi said at a news conference.

He was referring to Li's inauguration speech earlier in the day in which the Taiwanese leader, who won reelection in Taiwan's first-ever direct presidential election in March, expressed his desire to improve relations with China.

Hayashi ruled out the possibility of Japan acting as a "bridge" between Taipei and Beijing, saying merely that Tokyo has consistently called for peaceful resolution of their row.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama also told a separate news conference he welcomes Li's offer to visit China for talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

China considers Taiwan as its renegade province, and has said it will attack Taiwan if it declares independence.

Japan: Delegation Congratulates Taiwan's Li on Inauguration

*OW2005121696 Tokyo KYODO in English
1213 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taipei, May 20 KYODO — Japanese legislators met Monday [20 May] with newly inaugurated Taiwanese president Li Teng-hui at the Presidential Palace in Taipei to convey congratulations from their parties.

"Our delegation has come here to celebrate your taking office. Congratulations," said delegation chief Hajime Tamura, a former House of Representatives speaker and member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the major partner in Japan's ruling three-party coalition, according to delegation members.

Li, who was sworn in as the Republic of China's first popularly elected leader earlier in the day, thanked Tamura for the congratulations, they said.

Li has been Taiwan's president since 1988 and is being credited with promoting the island's peaceful transition from autocratic single-party rule to a multi-party democracy.

He won reelection for a four-year term in the landmark election March 23 despite Chinese efforts to undermine his popularity.

Masakuni Murakami, leader of the LDP bloc in the House of Councillors, presented Li with a resolution hailing Taiwan's democratization which was adopted by the Japanese upper house's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Following the reception of foreign visitors, Li and his wife hosted a banquet for the congratulators. Japan's six-member delegation also included legislators from the coalition member New Party Sakigake and the major opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

Japan: KMT Leader Urges 'Independent Diplomacy' Toward Taiwan

*OW2005123796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1014 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taipei, May 20 KYODO — A leader of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang (KMT or Nationalist Party) urged Japan on Monday [20 May] to develop a more independent diplomacy toward the island and pay less attention to Chinese sensitivities.

"Japan must cooperate with all of Asia including Taiwan without making China feel ill at ease," Hsu Shuite, KMT secretary general, said in an interview with Japanese reporters. "In dealing with China it must also say what has to be said," he added.

Japan recognizes Beijing as the sole legitimate Chinese government and does not have official ties with Taiwan, although economic and cultural ties with the island are strong.

Hsu expressed hope that Tokyo will allow a visit by Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui now that he has been reelected. Li took office as the island's first popularly elected president earlier in the day.

"The Japanese people have friendly feelings for President Li and some people even admire him. We would like the (Japanese) Government to display more interest too," Hsu said.

Li, who outraged Beijing with a private visit to his alma mater of Columbia University in the United States last June, has voiced interest in attending the 100th founding anniversary of his Japanese alma mater Kyoto University next year.

At a luncheon with Japanese legislators who attended the inauguration ceremony, Hsu urged closer political ties between Japan and Taiwan.

"Our economic and cultural exchange is active, but our political relationship is distant. I hope that in the future we will also become closer politically," he said.

In response, Hajime Tamura, a former House of Representatives speaker and head of the Japanese delegation, said that Japan and Taiwan are already very close and that he hopes that they will be even closer in the future.

Japan: Upper House Panel Adopts Resolution on China-Taiwan Issue

OW2005124796 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 May 96 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] On 16 May, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Councillors (led by Chairman Kentaro Koba from the Heisei-kai) unanimously adopted "a resolution concerning the China-Taiwan situation," which was jointly submitted by the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the Social Democratic Party [SDP], the Heiseikai, the Communist Party of Japan [JCP], and other parties. The resolution gives a positive appraisal of Taiwan's democratization and also calls on China to promote democracy. It was the first resolution touching on Taiwan that has been adopted since diplomatic relations between Japan and China were normalized in 1972.

Taiwan has stepped into the final stage of the democratization process by holding the presidential election. The resolution can be said to indicate that, due to China's pressure on the election by conducting military exercises, both the [Japanese] ruling and opposition parties

have now come to share a growing interest in Taiwan, which had long been put on the back burner.

Last March, a panel on the Asian-Pacific affairs (led by Chairman Keizo Takemi from the LDP) was set up under the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and learned men were invited to discuss the China-Taiwan situation. The resolution is based on a proposal worked out by this multipartisan panel.

The resolution calls for development of Sino-Japanese ties on the basis of the joint Japan-China statement (signed in 1972), which confirms the Beijing government as the only legal government in China, and for settling the Taiwan issue through "peaceful talks between China and Taiwan." In regard to Taiwan, the resolution clearly states that "Taiwan is now making efforts to institutionalize democracy, and the fact that its leader has been selected by the popular election is welcomed." As for China, it is stated that "we expect that both China and Taiwan [as published] will try to build a more open society by promoting democracy and the guarantee of human rights."

Japan: Kumaratunga: Sri Lanka To Solve Ethnic Problem Itself

BK1705090996 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 17 May 96

[Report by Lakshman Gunasekara in Tokyo — Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO, May 16 — The Sri Lankan ethnic problem is "entirely" a domestic problem and the country would solve the problem by itself, President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga told a news conference in Tokyo this afternoon. The President was answering questions by the international and local media at the National Press Club prior to leaving the Japanese capital on the final leg of her four-day visit to this country.

The President was asked by a West Asian news agency correspondent as to whether the Sri Lankan government had sought the help of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] to solve the problem of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam "terrorism".

"We believe the ethnic problem is entirely a domestic one and, we intend to solve it ourselves," she declared as numerous cameras flashed and a bank of TV cameras recorded her.

President Kumaratunga's very presence in the prestigious National Press Club was a "historic event" as news conference moderator D. Chimura observed in welcoming her. Mr. Chimura, a board member of the Club, recalled that in 1976, Mrs. Kumaratunga's mother, Mrs.

Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the world's first woman premier, had similarly addressed a news conference in the same hall during a visit to Japan as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

The correspondent for the Kyodo news agency of Japan pointed out that despite a claim by the People's Alliance government, when it came to power, that the ethnic conflict would soon be brought to an end, the conflict was continuing for more than a year.

The president responded that the Government had acted to propose far-reaching political reforms to resolve the conflict and that these proposals were now being discussed by a Parliamentary Select Committee. The process of reform had been initiated within months of the government coming to power. Mrs. Kumaratunga observed and argued that "you can't do it overnight". At the same time, government forces had now taken more than one third of the Jaffna Peninsula and, as Tamil civilians returned to government-controlled areas, the Tamil community had realised "that there is a better alternative to solving the problem than the LTTE". [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] she declared.

The process of abolishing the presidency was a part of the political reform proposals and was under way, she said.

In the morning the President paid a state call on Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. She was accompanied by Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, Deputy Ethnic Integration Minister Jeyeraj Fernandopulle and Ambassador and Mrs. N. Navaratnarajah. The President and the delegation were later hosted to a court luncheon by their Imperial Majesties.

Later this afternoon the President and the Sri Lanka delegation departed for the historic city of Kyoto on board a Shinkansen 'bullet' train. The President will tour places of interest in this medieval Japanese imperial capital and then travel to the industrial city of Osaka for a final meeting with industrialists before emplaning for Colombo.

Japan: Indonesian Minister Comments on Plan To Produce Cars

OW2005044696 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 14 May 96 Morning Edition p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Visiting Indonesian State Minister Habibie held a news conference in Tokyo 13 May. Regarding Indonesia's plan to produce national cars, he said "any manufacturers can take part in the plan three years later," thus indicating an intention not to let a lo-

cally invested maker — which is already approved by Indonesia — monopolize national car production.

According to the plan, a 100 percent locally-invested company established by President Suharto's third son in cooperation with the Kia [as published] auto company will sell low-price cars with a maximum exemption of 65 percent of import duties for parts on condition that numerical targets for domestic production of parts will be achieved. In response, such organizations as Japanese companies, which account for the most of the auto market in Indonesia, and the Japanese Government, have criticized the plan for violating rules of the World Trade Organization and discriminating against foreign companies. State Minister Habibie said: "If the designated national car maker fails to meet requirements that over 60 percent of the parts will be domestically produced in the next three years and then car will be exported, we will make the maker return exempted import duties for parts, and therefore, any manufacturers will be able to take part in the plan three years later."

Japan: Kajiyama Praises Smaller Trade Surplus With U.S.

OW2005093496 Tokyo KYODO in English 0814 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — A Japanese Government spokesman Monday [20 May] praised the sharp 55.6 percent decline in the April trade surplus with the United States from a year earlier to 172.1 billion yen.

Japan-U.S. economic ties are not as strained as before although some minor issues still exist, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama said during a press conference.

The Finance Ministry said earlier in the day that Japan's merchandise trade surplus in April plunged 65.5 percent from a year earlier to 320.66 billion yen.

Japan: Trade Surplus Expected To Remain on 'Downtrend'

OW2005045696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0213 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — Japan's merchandise trade surplus in April plunged 65.5 percent from a year earlier to 320.66 billion yen thanks to robust imports of office equipment, electronic devices and meat, the finance ministry said Monday [20 May].

This was the 17th straight monthly fall in Japan's global trade surplus. The April fall was the biggest since a 77.7 percent decline in January.

Japan's politically sensitive surplus with the United States also dropped a sharp 55.6 percent to 172.09 billion yen, posting a decrease for the 14th consecutive month, the ministry said in a preliminary report. The decrease was the largest since a 56.3 percent fall in May 1979.

"Japan's trade surplus is expected to remain on a downtrend," a ministry official said. Imports have been growing faster than exports for almost three years, he noted.

The official attributed April's sharp fall in the trade surplus to a rise in meat imports in addition to continued strong imports of office equipment, and semiconductors and other electronic devices.

Meat imports increased as Japan in March lifted higher tariffs which had been imposed on pork and beef as a "safeguard" measure to prevent imports from harming the domestic industry, he said.

Exports in April rose 5.1 percent to 3,644.47 billion yen, increasing for the ninth straight month, while imports soared 30.9 percent to 3,323.82 billion yen, up for the 24th month in a row, the ministry said.

Among export items, electronic devices rose 15.4 percent, but automobiles fell 5.3 percent.

Imports surged 73.9 percent for office equipment, 76.8 percent for electronic devices and 95.5 percent for meat.

The ratio of imported finished goods to overall imports edged down to 59.3 percent from 60.4 percent in March.

In trade with the U.S., meanwhile, exports increased 1.2 percent to 973.28 billion yen, the first rise in two months, while imports grew 39.5 percent to 801.18 billion yen, advancing for the eighth straight month.

U.S.-bound exports of electronic devices rose 8.9 percent but auto exports to the U.S. dropped 16.4 percent.

Imports from the U.S. soared 85.9 percent for electronic devices, 79.7 percent for office equipment and 107.7 percent for meat.

Japan's trade surpluses with other regions also dropped sharply.

The trade surplus with the European Union fell 52.2 percent to 92.55 billion yen, decreasing for the fourth successive month, while the surplus with Asian nations declined 32.9 percent to 402.12 billion yen for the first fall in two months.

Starting with the figures for April, the ministry is reporting the merchandise trade data in yen terms only, instead of in both yen and U.S. dollar terms as it had done previously.

In announcing current account data, which cover goods and services trade as well as various monetary transfers, Japan has been releasing figures in yen terms only since January.

Takumi Tsunoda, an economist at the Yamaichi Research Institute of Securities and Economics, said April's sharp fall in the trade surplus reflected the widening gap between export and import prices.

"Reflecting the dollar's rebound against the yen, yen-denominated foodstuff and other import prices have been posting bigger rises than export prices," he said.

Tsunoda, however, deflected concerns that higher import prices could throw cold water on Japanese consumers' purchases of foreign products and reverse the downtrend in the trade surplus.

Despite the recent import price rise, computers, consumer electronics and other products manufactured abroad are still cheaper than domestic products, he said.

"Japan is expected to continue to show an uptrend in its imports," Tsunoda said.

Japan: Nonlife Insurers Abolish Self-Imposed Rule

*OW1805021696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0111 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO — The nonlife insurance industry has abolished a self-imposed restraint rule on insurance policies for corporate customers, because of its possible violation of the antimonopoly law, a business daily reported Saturday [18 May].

The abandoned rule called for unified fees paid by insurance companies to sales agents of corporate insurance policies such as manufacturers' product liability policies and marine insurance policies, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said.

Because the agent fees are a major factor in determining premiums, the rule effectively led insurers to offer customers the same premiums on their corporate insurance policies, it said.

With the dissolution of the rule, insurance companies are now free to set premiums based on each business decision, and thus premiums on corporate insurance policies could vary in the near future, the daily said.

It said the industry's move was spurred by the fair trade commission's January investigation into insurers offering machinery insurance policies on suspicion of an illegal cartel on premiums.

Japan: Daido Postpones Formation of Nonlife Insurance Unit

*OW2005064096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0446 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO — Daido Life Insurance Co. has postponed for three years the planned establishment of its nonlife insurance subsidiary designed to enter the "third sector" market of insurance products, company officials said Monday [20 May].

Third-sector products provide coverage against ailments, accidents and nursing for the elderly. The area combines the benefits offered by primary life and non-life insurance. Daido had originally planned to form the subsidiary this summer.

Industry sources linked Daido's decision to the Japan-U.S. trade row over a U.S. demand for the entire Japanese insurance industry to refrain from offering third-sector products to customers through the establishment of subsidiaries.

They also traced the postponement to anxieties that if its subsidiary sells third-sector products, the products may end up competing with an existing third-sector product Daido and its U.S. partner insurance company are now jointly marketing.

The sources said the United States has demanded curbs on the entry into the third sector by subsidiaries of Japanese insurance firms as Daido's U.S. partner is strongly influencing the U.S. position.

With Daido's decision, Japan and the U.S. may be able to make some headway in resolving the insurance fray, they said.

But a senior finance ministry official said action of one company will have no effect on the course of the Japan-U.S. insurance talks.

The dispute has revolved around what Washington describes as the lack of consistency between the 1994 bilateral insurance accord and a new insurance law, which took effect April 1. The new law allows Japanese life and nonlife insurers to enter each other's turf through the establishment of subsidiaries.

The accord obligates Japan to avoid taking measures that would trigger "any radical change" in the third-sector market before it substantially liberalizes the two primary life and nonlife sectors.

A Daido official said, "if we wait for three years, the subsidiaries (of Japanese insurers) will obtain freedom to enter the third sector, as the period for maintaining

measures designed to soften the radical change will come to an end."

Japan: Hashimoto Receipt of Donations From Drug Industry Seen

*OW1705141796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1302 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Friday [17 May] he received donations totaling 91 million yen from the pharmaceutical industry between 1992 and 1994.

The total consisted of 21 million yen in 1992, 34 million yen in 1993 and 36 million yen in 1994, Hashimoto told a plenary session of the House of Representatives.

He was answering questions from Ichiro Kamoshita of the main opposition party, Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

Hashimoto said he had calculated the figures from files for the past three years, the period for which the law controlling political funds obligates the preservation of records.

Kamoshita asked Hashimoto about the donations after alleging that some politicians, after getting donations from Green Cross Corp., which sold blood products in the 1980s that caused human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection among hemophiliacs, implicitly favored the company.

The opposition lawmaker said Hashimoto is said to be a politician with influence over the health and welfare administration.

Asked about relations with Renzo Matsushita, president of Green Cross between 1983 and 1988, the premier denied any special ties, while acknowledging that he had known him since the 1970s, when Matsushita worked at the Health and Welfare Ministry.

When Hashimoto was parliamentary vice minister of health and welfare around 1970, Matsushita was counselor of the minister's Secretariat, Hashimoto said.

Hashimoto told a House of Councillors Budget Committee session April 12 that he had received 8.6 million yen in donations from Green Cross between 1989 and 1994 and another 20 million yen from a political panel of the drug industry between 1992 and 1994.

Japan: LDP Lawmakers Said To Favor Jan Diet Dissolution

*OW1905093796 Tokyo KYODO in English
0902 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 19 KYODO — Opinion within the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the

dominant force in the ruling coalition, increasingly favors a January dissolution of the House of Representatives followed by elections, according to LDP lawmakers.

One factor behind LDP members' growing interest in a January dissolution is the unlikelihood of any diminution in the controversy embroiling the governing parties over the windup of failed mortgage loan companies with taxpayers' money.

In addition, even Ichiro Ozawa, leader of the main opposition party, Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), previously forced into favoring an early dissolution, has since expressed interest in January.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama also sparked speculation recently on the timing of the dissolution with a recent suggestion that January would be suitable.

Because both Ozawa and Kajiyama are former members of an LDP faction led by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, speculation that the two are in cahoots does not die away easily.

LDP legislators said that as the timing of the Diet's dissolution gets more distant, long-term members of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's LDP in particular are urging a cabinet reshuffle and changes in personnel in the party's executive ranks before the executives' terms of office end in September.

LDP sources said a further reason for such calls is the possibility LDP Secretary General Koichi Kato may have to testify at a Diet hearing over his alleged acceptance of a 10 million yen donation from the now-defunct steel-frame maker Kyowa Co.

Shinshinto is currently pressuring the Hashimoto government, saying it will boycott Diet debate over six financial bills unless Kato testifies.

One of the LDP's three key officials is already on record as saying the party will not go into an election with the current executive lineup.

But whereas many older LDP Diet members feel the party cannot go into an election with controversy hanging over their heads, younger members feel there is no reason for change.

In light of all this, many in the party's executive ranks feel Kajiyama's suggested timing of a January dissolution is appropriate, the LDP lawmakers said.

Many veteran LDP Diet members also support the idea of immediately dissolving the Diet after Hashimoto addresses his policy address at next year's regular session of the legislature to be convened in January, they said.

Sections of the LDP and Shinshinto also favor dissolution at the outset of the regular session in January, followed by elections in mid-February.

In addition, at a meeting May 14 with New Party Sakigake leader Masayoshi Takemura, Takeshita said that the Diet should be dissolved after January.

But Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council said while visiting in Washington last week that he favors a December dissolution because it increases the chances of passing the next fiscal year's budget program within the current fiscal year, which ends March 31, 1997.

Former LDP Secretary General Hiroshi Mitsuzuka has also said the likelihood of a dissolution between autumn and the end of the year is strong.

Japan: Health Minister Signals To Join New Party led by Hatoyama

*OW1905080496 Tokyo KYODO in English
0737 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, may 19 KYODO — Health and Welfare Minister Naoto Kan on Sunday [19 May] signaled his readiness to join a new political party to be led by Yukio Hatoyama, currently chief secretary of New Party Sakigake.

"Most Sakigake members will join the new party," Kan said in a speech in Naha, capital of Okinawa Prefecture.

North Korea

DPRK: MINJU CHOSON Editorial Marks 1980 Kwangju Uprising

*SK1805104396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0829 GMT 18 May 96*

["MINJU CHOSON on Achieving Reunification With Nation's United Efforts" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA) — MINJU CHOSON today, in an editorial dedicated to the 16th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising, appealed to the entire Korean people in the North, South and overseas to defend the country's peace and achieve reunification with the nation's united efforts.

The editorial says:

The Kwangju popular uprising, triggered in South Korea on May 18, 1980, was an anti-American and anti-fascist democratic resistance that erupted in opposition to the extension of the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule and the military fascist dictatorship and in aspiration

for independence, democracy and reunification and was a mass armed uprising in which the entire Kwangju citizens fought a decisive battle against the fascist crackdown.

The Kwangju citizens occupied the city through armed uprising and defended it for 10 days.

Though the uprising was quelled by the suppressors, it shook the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule to its very foundation and greatly encouraged the struggle of the world's oppressed people for national liberation and independence. It also marked a new phase in the struggle for independence against America.

The uprisers' aspiration has not yet been carried into practice, the editorial notes, continuing:

The reality illustrates that if the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who runs amuck persisting in flunkeyism, fascist repression, North-South confrontation and war provocation moves, is left intact the South Korean people cannot free themselves from colonial slavery, the independent and peaceful reunification of the country cannot be achieved, not to speak of the democratization of South Korean society, nor can the danger of nuclear war be removed.

All the Koreans in the North, South and overseas should invigorate the struggle for achieving national reunification through confederation in accordance with the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

All those who are truly concerned about the destiny of the nation and desirous of reunification, whether they be in the North, or in the South, or overseas, and whether they be communists or nationalists, rich or poor, atheists or believers, must unite as one nation, transcending all their differences, and pave the way for national reunification together.

Now that the South Korean ruling quarters have made the provocation of war against the North a fait accompli, all Koreans in the North, South and overseas should, first of all, actively turn out in a nationwide solidarity struggle to hold in check and foil the war moves of the warmaniacs.

DPRK: Daily Comments on 'Struggle' of ROK Students, People

SK1805050096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0414 GMT 18 May 96

[*"South Koreans Will Fight Out"* — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA) — South Korean students and people from all walks of life are undauntedly waging the anti-U.S., anti-

"government" struggle on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising, which is an eruption of their pent-up grudge and resentment at the Kim Yong-sam group which continue protecting the inveterate ringleaders of the Kwangju massacre. It is also a manifestation of the steadfast will of the people to give vent to the bloody grudge of the Kwangju resistance martyrs by throwing the Kim Yong-sam group as well as murderers Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u into a dustpan of history.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a signed commentary today.

The daily extends support to their struggle.

The news analyst goes on:

The traitor Kim Yong-sam has little intended to probe the truth behind the Kwangju incident and punish the murderers from the first, but schemed to leave them intact and maintain the traitorous "government" hand in hand with them.

Several trials of the traitors Chon and No by the Kim Yong-sam group are no more than perfunctory trials for acquittal of the murdererous criminals.

This is well illustrated by the fact that Chon and No acted haughtily in the dock, shamelessly justifying their crimes with a sophism of "just decision" and "right action".

The South Korean students and people will never stop their struggle till they will bury the traitor Kim Yong-sam clique together with the human-butchers Chon and No into a sewage of history.

DPRK: KCNA on Struggle, Ceremonies To Mark Kwangju 'Uprising'

SK2005034996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0336 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — Anti-American, anti-"government" struggle is reportedly gaining momentum in South Korea on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising.

On the 18th of May, thousands of students held an anti-U.S. demonstration in Seoul.

The protesters marched up to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, denouncing the U.S. for its involvement in the Kwangju massacre and demanding an apology for it. And they castigated the Kim Yong-sam group for defending Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and demanded that those responsible for the massacre be condemned to death.

On May 11, an all-people campaign was proclaimed with due ceremony in Kwangju to punish those responsible for the May 18 massacre and indict the U.S. at the International Court of Justice.

Those present there pressed for sternly punishing Chon Tu-hwan, No Tae-u and all others who brutally killed innocent people.

They also denounced the U.S. for its behind-the-scene manipulation of the Kwangju massacre, and demanded that the U.S. admit its responsibility for egging the military dictatorial forces on to put down the uprising by force of arms, and make an apology for it.

Ceremonies, including a concert and international gathering for human rights and peace, have been held in Kwangju and its surrounding areas from May 14 to honor the memory of those killed in the uprising.

In another development, the Kyonggi Provincial and Inchon Regional Federation of University Student Councils (Kyonginchongnyon) had an inauguration of the third term organisation on May 4 and vowed to stage a more powerful anti- "government" struggle.

The organisation formed the Kyonginchongnyon headquarters of the struggle to make the traitor Kim Yong-sam's "presidential election" fund open to the public and punish all the principal culprits of the Kwangju massacre.

DPRK: NDFSK Spokesman Urges Anti-U.S., Anti-Kim Yong-sam Struggle

SK1805041396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0410 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — A spokesman for the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) released a statement on May 17, a day before the 16th anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising, calling for an intensified anti-U.S., anti-Kim Yong-sam struggle to settle the grudge of the uprising martyrs.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam, with a deceptive promise to have a May 18 special law enacted and "the modern history set straight", has fooled the people who hope for a genuine settlement of the Kwangju problem and defended the chief murderers of Kwangju people, the spokesman said. He has also brutally suppressed the national democratic and patriotic forces desirous of independence, democracy and reunification, while pursuing "new security-oriented politics."

Charging that the Kim Yong-sam group, in the wake of its defeat in the 15th "general election," has created

a terrible atmosphere of brutal suppression in May, he said:

Our people should tide over the serious situation caused by the suppression in the spirit of the Kwangju uprising and launch an anti-U.S., anti-Kim Yong-sam struggle throughout South Korea to settle the grudge of the martyrs.

The people from all walks of life should vigorously struggle to spoil the reactionary politics of the Kim Yong-sam group and smash its moves to remain in power, inheriting the spirit of the uprising, so as to eliminate the "civilian" dictatorship as early as possible. They should also blame the United States for the tragic Kwangju bloodbath and fight for an unconditional apology from the U.S.

DPRK: KCNA Refutes State Department's Report on Terrorism

SK1805041396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0410 GMT 18 May 96

["It Is High Time That U.S. Renounced Political Plot" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA) — The U.S. State Department in an "annual report" on terrorism insulted the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other countries as "terrorism-supporting states", according to a report.

The "annual report" full of lies and harm is not worth consideration. But we cannot but express what we think because the United States is trying to mislead public opinion of the international community and impair the authority of the DPRK, groundlessly taking issue with it which has nothing to do with "support to terrorism".

The DPRK, whose basic idea of external policy is independence, peace and friendship, is firmly opposed to all forms of international terrorism and any support to it, which encroaches upon the sovereignty of other countries and trample underfoot the peace and security of the world. We declared more than once that this is the consistent stand of the DPRK.

The U.S. definition of the DPRK, which is struggling to terminate terrorism, as a "terrorism-supporting state", fully shows that the U.S. policy towards Korea remains unchanged. The United States has attempted to connect the DPRK with terror in the past. But it was revealed in the world that all of them were unfounded political tricks. This time the United States brought forward the issue of "Red Army" to define the DPRK as a "terrorism supporting state" once again. This is nothing but a product of such political plots.

It is a trite mode of politics of the United States to seek its impure purpose by doing political harm to others. The United States intends to label those countries, which go against the grain with it, as "terrorism-supporting states" to isolate them internationally and cover up its terrorist acts on this pretext. In fact, the United States, which is fraught with graver issue of terrorism than anyone else, is not in a position to talk about "support to terrorism".

Terrorist acts are being openly committed in broad daylight in the United States. Three attempts at killing the U.S. President took place last year, which shows well how serious terrorism is in the United States.

By describing the DPRK as a "terrorism-supporting state" the United States, the producer of the most crucial terrorism in the world, invites only abuses and ridicules of the world people.

For the United States to artificially connect the DPRK, a party to the improvement of the DPRK-U.S. relations, with "terrorism" at a time when these relations have entered a new stage is a very irresponsible behaviour which will create only complexity in the future developments.

The U.S. conservative hardliners fail to think of future. The U.S. must clearly see that its definition of the DPRK as a "terrorism supporting state" adds lustre to mistrust between the DPRK and the U.S. and lays obstacle to the improvement of the relations for common interests.

We will watch the future action of the United States.

DPRK: Senior Military Representative on 'Self-Defense' Measures

OW1805111796 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 May 96 Morning Edition p 7

[By Takuro Kawade]

[FBIS Translated Text] Panmunjom, 17 May — Japanese reporters, including MAINICHI SHIMBUN, who are visiting North Korea, entered the demilitarized zone between the DPRK and the ROK on 17 May. In response to a question from a reporter, a senior North Korean military representative at Panmunjom commented on the fact that the North Korean military abandoned its task of controlling and maintaining the demilitarized zone, stressing that it was a "measure for self-defense." He then said that "tension still prevails there."

The armistice accord stipulates the need to wear armbands and put signs on vehicles as soldiers enter the demilitarized zone. However, Lieutenant-Colonel Yi Hong-sop disclosed the fact that North Korean soldiers have not been wearing armbands since 4 April. At the same time, he claimed: "The United States deployed

weapons and soldiers to the demilitarized zone and is holding exercises by aiming their weapons at us. The demilitarized zone is losing its function. The situation is such that they are about to pull the trigger. We are only taking active measures for our own safety." On the report in the West that the North Korean move is "aimed at diplomatic effect," he strongly denied it, saying that "this is distorted information."

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN Criticizes Kim Yong-sam for 'Suppression'

SK1705043196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 17 May 96

["Repressive Order by Fascist Tyrant" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — "Advanced public peace service" called for by the traitor Kim Yong-sam recently means, in essence, advanced fascist suppression, says NODONG SINMUN today.

In a commentary the daily says that as regards the "advanced public peace service", the traitor urged the police to "strictly execute law."

The daily further says:

The traitor has further updated the fascist repressive tools, made over by the "Sixth Republic" military dictators, and reduced the puppet police to wild manhunters, turning the whole of South Korea into fascist rowdyism. Not being complacent with this, he is urging the police to further intensify the suppression of the people.

He also talked about "the police kind to the people", which is not fitting for the fascist tyrant.

His rigmarole is a mockery of and an insult to the people harshly suppressed by the fascist police and a jargon for camouflaging his fascist nature.

It is only too clear that the Kim Yong-sam group, isolated and rejected at home and abroad, are trying to prop up the tottering regime by further updating the fascist repressive equipment, making the police all the more ferocious and escalating the suppression of the people.

DPRK: Pommminnyon Urges ROK To Release Dissidents

SK1705123196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0853 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — The overseas headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pommminnyon) and the

Overseas Emergency Measure Committee for Defence of Pommminnyon and Release of Pro-Reunification Patriots in a statement May 11 urged the Kim Yong-sam regime to set free the members of the South side headquarters of Pommminnyon unconditionally, according to a report.

The statement denounced the Kim Yong-sam group's demand for heavy penalty for hardcore members of the Pommminnyon South side headquarters as a fascist crackdown to stamp out Pommminnyon, a centripetal force of the reunification movement, in order to tide over their political crisis.

It is illogical that the anti-reunification forces are labelling Pommminnyon, which conducts the nationwide reunification movement in firm unity of the south, the North and overseas, as an organization of "benefiting the enemy" and a "pro-North" organization by dint of the "National Security Law." Talking about "spies" with distorted facts is all the more ridiculous, the statement said, and stressed:

The Kim Yong-sam regime must stop at once the unjust trial of the headquarters members and release them without delay

DPRK: Kim Yong-sam Advised To 'Step Down From Power at Once'

*SK1905083896 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0702 GMT 19 May 96*

[**"Kim Yong-sam Advised To Step Down From Power" — KCNA headline**]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 19 (KCNA) — Traitor Kim Yong-sam must open to the public the whole background of irregularities and swindles and step down from power at once as demanded by South Korean people in the recent "election," stresses NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today.

The news analyst says:

Motivated by an intention to take the "parliamentary election" as an opportunity to extricate themselves from the worst crisis of politics and government, the Kim Yong-sam group vociferated about "fair election" outwardly, but inwardly, they engaged in all kinds of irregularities and swindles.

The April 11 "election" was held by dint of government power and violence.

No fair election has been held in South Korea. The recently-held "election" surpasses all the past fraudulent "elections" in the level of irregularities and swindles.

However, the Kim Yong-sam group got only 139 seats, which fail to make up the majority of the "National Assembly."

This fully shows that they are wholly isolated and rejected by South Korean people.

It is only too natural that South Korean people brand as the king of irregularities and corruption and as a special-class violator of election law traitor Kim Yong-sam, who occupied the presidential office with the help of money and turned the recently-held "election" into a theatre of unprecedented irregularities and swindles, and are daringly fighting against him and his "New Korea Party", demanding his overthrow.

DPRK: ROK Suppression of Pommminnyon Members Condemned

*SK1805104796 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0838 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA) — The Federation of Young Korean Citizens in China in a statement on May 11 strongly denounced the anti-reunification, anti-ethical and anti-national criminal acts of the Kim Yong-sam group in demanding heavy penalties for the leading members of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pommminnyon) by invoking the anti-reunification "National Security Law."

The statement said that the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique should repeal the "National Security Law" and renounce the heavy penalties demanded for the patriotic-minded champions of reunification.

All the members of the federation would actively conduct solidarity struggle for Chairman Kang Hui-nam and other members of the Pommminnyon South side headquarters and struggle to the end for release of the patriotic-minded champions of reunification.

DPRK: 'Kim Yong-sam Fascist Clique' Repressing Pro-DPRK Groups

*SK2005103196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0816 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — A spokesman for the headquarters of Koreans in China of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pommminnyon) released a statement on May 11.

The spokesman in the statement said that the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique demanded heavy penalties against the leading members of the South side headquarters of Pommminnyon, and vehemently denounced it as a vicious

challenge to the pro-reunification patriotic movement of Pomminnyon and an atrocity they committed against the nation and reunification.

The statement urged the Kim Yong-sam group to unconditionally release the leading members of the Pomminnyon South side headquarters, including its chairman Kang Hui-nam, for whom a heavy penalty was demanded on unwarrantable charges and to guarantee the freedom of patriotic activities for reunification.

The Pomminnyon headquarters of Koreans in China and all the Koreans in China will wage more undaunted nationwide struggle for the abolition of the notorious "National Security Law" and the release of the members of Pomminnyon South side headquarters in a firm unity with all the pro-reunification patriotic forces at home and abroad, the statement added.

DPRK: ROK Said 'Persecuting' Pomminnyon South Side Members

*SK1705132096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0857 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — The North side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) vehemently denounced the Kim Yong-sam group for brutally persecuting members of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon).

In a statement released on May 17, this organisation said:

The Kim Yong-sam group demanded prison terms and suspension of qualification for 12 hardcore members of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon including its Chairman Kang Hui-nam and its Vice-Chairman Chon Chang-il. This fascist outrage seeks a sinister purpose to destroy the reunification movement of South Korean people and students and create a favourable condition for the forthcoming puppet presidential election.

Members of the Pomminnyon South side headquarters are pro-reunification, patriotic-minded figures who have devoted their whole life to the peace and reunification of the country. Accordingly, there is no reason to detain and punish them.

The Kim Yong-sam group must draw a due lesson from the flow of history and stop at once the fascist acts of branding as "illegal" and "enemy-benefiting" the pro-reunification, patriotic movement of Pomminnyon standing in the van of the nationwide struggle to reunify the country. And they must ensure their free activities and immediately release the members of the Pomminnyon South side headquarters and pro-

reunification, patriotic-minded figures who have been arrested and detained on unwarrantable charges.

DPRK: ROK Arrests of Pro-DPRK Students, Soldiers Denounced

*SK1905083996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0656 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 19 (KCNA) — The South Korean fascist clique, on May 16, detained nine members of the National Political Federation of Students (Chonhaknyon) including Son Yong-u, former chairman of its Central Committee, on charge of the violation of the "National Security Law," and have spread police dragnet to arrest another nine members of the organization including its Chairman Om Hyong-sik, a student of the University of Foreign Studies, on the same charge, according to a radio report from Seoul. On the same day, the Defense Security Command of the puppet Army detained four soldiers including Kim Il-yong, a Seoul National University graduate. They were affiliated with Chonhaknyon.

The fascist clique detained them on the grounds that they formed Chonhaknyon with the goal of propagandizing socialist ideas and driving the U.S. imperialists out of South Korea and disseminated socialist ideas through student activities and worker-student solidarity struggle. They have also charged that the detainees contributed to the company's publication of an article saying that the rising generation should be free from capitalist politics.

The fascist clique's persecution is aimed at putting down the anti-dictatorship, anti-Kim Yong-sam struggle for democracy which has been gaining momentum among the South Korean people around May 18.

DPRK: Alleged Forgery Case Involving Ex-ROK Diplomat Viewed

*SK1705120996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0804 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — Choe Sung-chin, former executive official of the South Korean puppet embassy in Wellington, who was arrested and escorted to South Korea for revealing the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique's plots over the "local autonomy election", made clear on May 13 that he made a false statement concerning the alleged forging of a confidential document under the puppet prosecution's coercion, according to a radio report from Seoul.

When the chairman of the ad hoc committee on human rights of the opposition "National Congress for New Politics" called on him in the Seoul prison that day,

he released a "declaration of conscience" through him, saying that he made a false statement, coerced by the prosecution keeping him sleepless for 30 hours.

The prosecution said if he made a statement that he forged a confidential document concerning the "local autonomy election", a "complaint against defamation" would be withdrawn, he said.

DPRK: Pyongyang Radio Denigrates South's Alleged Exercises

*SK2005010096 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1200 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] According to South Korean newspapers, the Kim Yong-sam ring launched a joint ground exercise in preparations against counterinfiltration, mobilizing a unit of the puppet army in Chunchon, Kangwon Province of South Korea, on 3-4 May.

In this exercise, the puppets raved about somebody's nonexistent invasion and provocation, formed and deployed an imaginary force, and viciously inspired a frenzy of northward war even while firing.

The flaps of war exercises recently conducted throughout South Korea everyday prove that such things as peace, dialogue rattled by the civil, treacherous gang are nothing but a smokescreen to disguise their bellicose real characters, and that they, in fact, are vigilantly watching for an opportunity to attack the North. UN-CLAS 4C/RELROK

DPRK: DPRK Vows 'Self-Defensive Measures' After DMZ Provocations

*SK1905073596 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0659 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 19 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets, who have turned the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into a starting position for attacking the North, have perpetrated one grave provocation after another in areas near the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) in the central sector of the front, military sources said.

On Friday, they deployed a 90-mm recoilless gun and a 12.7-mm machine gun in a combat position and openly threatened to fire them if so-called tiers of the Korean People's Army on routine duty did not withdraw.

On the 15th, heavily armed puppet army soldiers took a combat position near the MDL and fired automatic rifles, gravely threatening KPA soldiers.

Such provocations are an intolerable challenge to the North and a wanton violation of its sovereignty.

If the Kim Yong-sam group render the situation in MDL areas perilous, continuing to obstruct KPA soldiers on routine duty, we cannot but take legitimate self-defensive measures and make the provocers pay dearly for them.

DPRK: 50,000 Kwangju Citizens Mark 1980 Uprising, Massacre

*SK1905083696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0648 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 19 (KCNA) — More than 50,000 citizens and students in Kwangju, South Korea, held a meeting in memory of resistance fighters on May 17, a day before the 16th anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising, according to a radio report from Seoul.

They let loose their indignation against the chief culprits of the massacre, looking back upon the days of the uprising.

The National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification made public a statement demanding severe punishment for the murderers who brutally suppressed the Kwangju uprisers.

DPRK: KCNA on Meetings To Mark 'Kwangju Uprising' Anniversary

*SK2005035796 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0332 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — Mass meetings took place across the northern half of Korea to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising.

Mass meetings were held in North Hwanghae and South Hamgyong Provinces on May 19.

The meetings expressed full support and solidarity of the people in the northern half of Korea for South Korean students and people who are waging a powerful struggle for independence, democracy and reunification in the noble spirit displayed by the valiant fighters of resistance.

It was said at the meetings that the Kim Yong-sam group's brutal suppression of the recent just demonstrations and rallies of South Korean students and people from all walks of life and its defence of those responsible for the Kwangju massacre and its deceptive "trials" are an unpardonable insult to the patriotic-minded students and people.

The meetings bitterly denounced the bellicose elements of the United States and the South Korean rulers for continuing cracking down upon the just patriotic

struggle of South Korean people at the point of bayonet, inciting inter-Korean confrontation and laying grave obstacles in the way of peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula.

DPRK: KCNA Denounces ROK for 'Suppression' of 'People's Struggle'

*SK2005040296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0340 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppet fascist clique held a "meeting of chiefs of security-related ministries and agencies" in Seoul on May 17 for the purpose of intensifying the suppression of the people's struggle, according to a South Korean radio report.

The chiefs of the ten puppet organs including the "Agency for National Security Planning," "Defense Security Command," "Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office," "National Unification Board" and "Ministry of Education" decided to "actively cope with the leftist forces which have posed a serious problem with an effective cooperation system."

They alleged that the "activities of the leftists in political circles, campuses and other spheres of society have gone beyond the danger line" and the university student councils have been "manipulated by the pro-North left movement forces." Their allegation openly revealed their intention to harshly suppress the struggle of students and people, charging them with being "leftists and pro-North, pro-communist elements."

Their charge is nothing but a foolish trick to find a pretext for justifying their suppression.

The Kim Yong-sam group must clearly know that the suppression for the "liquidation of the leftists" will only result in expanding the struggle of students and people for independence, democracy and reunification and in precipitating their doom.

DPRK: South Koreans' 'Reverence' for Kim Chong-il Growing

*SK2005103296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0821 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation quoted the North Chungchong provincial and Seoul City committees of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) as saying that reverence for the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is growing stronger among the South Korean people from all walks of life.

Members of the self-reliance academy active at Chungbuk National University held a seminar on the chuche idea to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the publication of Comrade Kim Chong-il's famous work "On the Chuche Idea."

A student Choe Myong-sik told the seminar that the work is an immortal one that demonstrated the leader Kim Chong-il's outstanding political ability without equal in the world. He went on to say that the work "on the chuche idea" is a priceless treasure in which his unique and great political philosophy is expounded in an all-round way and so the idea and philosophy of any politician can be no comparison with it.

While reading the famous work time and again, he said, I keenly felt that it is only quite natural that today the international community is highly praising him as a great philosopher and a distinguished statesman with the most outstanding political philosophy in the present time.

A student Kim Chun-ho said that as it indicates most correctly and scientifically the way of hewing out the destiny of human being in the era of independence, the work is regarded as a "bible" for the contemporary humanity. The leader Kim Chong-il is the most outstanding genius of ideology produced by mankind, he added.

A professor Yi Chang-il of a university, who is residing in Socho-ku, Seoul, at a meeting of the Hyangil Society, an ideological circle of the university, recalled his visit to Korean University of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) during his stay in Japan. He said, "The policy of the leader Kim Chong-il, who is showing so benevolent love and meticulous solicitude for the national education of the children of Koreans abroad made me feel again that he is, indeed, a great statesman and a tender-hearted father of the nation."

"Through the fact alone, I keenly felt that when we have such a great leader as the leader Kim Chong-il, we can develop the national education and the Koreans abroad can enjoy fortune," he added.

DPRK: ROK National Security Law Major Obstacle to Reunification

*SK2005114196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0848 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — Unless the "National Security Law" is repealed and as long as the traitorous Kim Yong-sam group remain in office in South Korea, the country's reunification, the nation's cherished desire, can never be realized, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The notorious "NSL" of South Korea has been denounced ever more strongly by all the Korean people and the world progressives and its repeal has been a demand of time, which brooks no further delay, the article says, and continues:

The "NSL" is a worst evil law, an anti-national and anti-reunification law, in its content and a fascist one worst ever in history which viciously bars the people from conducting patriotic reunification movement.

It defines the DPRK and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) as "enemy" and brands all organizations at home and abroad desirous of national reconciliation, unity and reunification as "anti-state organizations".

It crimинates travel, contact and dialogue between the fellow countrymen in the North, South and overseas and even their communications and correspondence.

The traitorous Kim Yong-sam group keep up "NSL" as a tool for "power security" and fascist stick, with which they are carrying on an unheard-of anti-communist fascist dictatorial rule which puts preceding dictators to shame.

Due to the Kim Yong-sam group, who are pursuing hostile policy towards the fellow countrymen in the North, branding them as "enemy", the North-South relations have reached a worst phase and the North-South dialogue has been completely ruptured.

Since the "NSL" exists and the Kim Yong-sam fascist group remains in power in South Korea, South Korea has turned into an extremely closed society in which contacts and dialogue between the fellow countrymen are criminated, into a worst fascist dictatorial society in the world in which people's patriotic reunification movement and democracy are trampled down ruthlessly.

DPRK: Vice Minister Receives Japan Foreign Ministry Officials

SK2005135396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0906 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK, today met and had a talk with the delegation of senior public relations officials for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan led by Shoichi Yasugawa.

DPRK: Japanese Forced Labour of Korean Workers in 1940s Revealed

SK2005114296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0903 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — Recently Japanese scholars of home history made public a report exposing the fact that about 2,000-3,000 Korean workers were forced to do slave labour at the dam construction site in Takakure, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan, in the 1940s.

Through testimonies of survivors, the report vividly exposed the inconceivable slave labour of Korean workers at the construction site.

The report said:

The lodging places of the drafted Korean workers were like a pigsty or a veritable hell.

Almost every day Korean workers fled, unable to endure forced labour of over 17 hours a day and harsh life, but most of them were arrested. Then they were treated by the Japanese in an indescribably cruel way.

The statements of the Japanese home historians and witnesses have great historical value as the Japanese Government refuses to provide data.

The Japanese Government must naturally admit the fact.

DPRK: Japan's Increasing Emphasis on Military Power Denounced

SK1705122996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0830 GMT 17 May 96

["Vigilance Cannot Be Slackened" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — While saying that they will not adopt collective self-defence, the Japanese authorities have recently moved to examine the "Guidelines on Japan-U.S. Defence Cooperation".

MINJU CHOSON today, commenting on this, says that it is stipulated in the constitution that Japan, a defeated country, should abandon war and have no army and should not recognise its national right to war nor use arms as a means for the settlement of international disputes.

The analyst says:

Japan's military moves are contradictory to the constitution; it is quite natural that the peoples in Asia and the rest of the world, including the Japanese, are heightening vigilance against them.

Contrary to their advertisement, the Japanese reactionaries are, in actuality, zealously stepping up the work to turn Japan into a military power, taking issue with the "absolute instability of the Korean Peninsula" and clamouring about the "event of contingency in the Far East".

It is publicly recognised that the scope of Japan-U.S. military action may cover the Far East surrounding the Korean Peninsula and wider areas of Asia and the rest of the world.

It is not difficult to see how dangerous the "guidelines on Japan-U.S. defence cooperation" will be if it comes into being.

The honeyed words of the Japanese reactionaries to cover up their true colors cannot work any longer.

The Japanese authorities should discard their anachronistic position to get something from military actions and should follow the trend of the times towards peace and security.

The peaceloving people of the world are sharpening their vigilance against Japan's military actions.

DPRK: Reactionary Violence Toward Korean Students in Japan Scored

SK1905083596 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0633 GMT 19 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 19 (KCNA) — Korean organizations and figures in China denounced the continued assaults of the Japanese right-wing reactionaries against Japan-resident Korean students. The General Association of Korean Residents in China in its statement published on May 10 said that all the overseas Koreans including China-resident Koreans will not remain an onlooker to the crimes committed by the Japanese right-wing reactionaries mocking at Koreans.

The statement said:

The violence was not an accident but part of moves of the Japanese authorities to stifle the DPRK and suppress the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) in league with the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

The statement strongly urged the Japanese authorities to immediately stop the anti-DPRK and anti-Chongnyon moves, look straight at the gravity of the violence, severely punish the criminals and promptly take a relevant step so that assaults and violent language against the Japan-resident students would not be committed again.

The Association of the Beijing Area of the General Federation of Korean Residents in China held an urgent meeting of Koreans in this area on May 11 and adopted a letter of protest to the Japanese Embassy in Beijing.

The letter said that the Japanese reactionaries had forced Korean girls into "comfort women for the Japanese Army" during the period of occupation of Korea by the Japanese imperialists and now their descendants are committing outrageous political terrorism against the Korean school girls for having restored the spirit of the nation and worn national costumes. "We cannot pocket such an insult," it added.

The General Association of Korean Youth in China and Yi Chol-chae, first vice-chairman of the Federation of Korean Industrialists in China, published statements.

Denouncing the despicable brutal crimes of the Japanese right-wing reactionaries the statements urged the Japanese authorities to immediately arrest and sternly punish the criminals.

DPRK: WPK Goodwill Group Returns Home From PRC Visit

SK2005141296 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1300 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A goodwill visiting group [chinson chamgwandan] of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] led by Pak Chang-hong, secretary of the WPK South Hamgyong Provincial Committee, which had been visiting the PRC, returned home today by train.

DPRK: Iran Public Health Ministry Delegation Visits Mangyongdae

SK2005114496 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1300 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Iranian Public Health Ministry headed by (Sedo Mohammad Zajeyer), chairman of the Public Health and Social Welfare Commission, visited Mangyongdae. At the old Mangyongdae house, the guests carefully looked at relics preserved there while listening to an explanation of the Great Leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's glorious revolutionary history and his revolutionary family. After posing for photographs commemorating their visit to the old Mangyongdae house, the guests visited revolutionary sites at the Mangyong Peak.

Winding up the visit, the head of the delegation said: We consider our visit to Mangyongdae, the birthplace of the DPRK people's Great Leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song, a great honor. Seeing many people visiting Mangyongdae, we could keenly feel that the Great Leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song lives forever in the hearts of mankind.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song was a great leader who won the people's absolute love and respect. The great leader [suryongnim] launched into the revolution in his early days, devoted his all to the country's independence and the people's happiness, and turned the DPRK into an advanced socialist country.

In the appearance of DPRK children who keep coming to Mangyongdae, unable to forget the great leader [suryongnim], we could see their boundless respect and love and were convinced of the future of the DPRK. Flowers and trees at Mangyongdae are all beautiful, and the hearts of the people who visit here with invariable loyalty and admiration of their leader [suryong] are much more beautiful. Mangyongdae is a stronghold for the revolutionary ideological indoctrination to hand down the great leader's [suryongnim] revolutionary achievements forever. The esteemed name of Comrade Kim Il-song will be glorified forever along with Mangyongdae. With the Great Leader [yongdoja] Kim Chong-il, the DPRK people will succeed and complete the respected and beloved leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary achievements generation after generation. We believe the DPRK people will strongly unite themselves around the Great Leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il and win a greater victory in socialist construction.

The delegation also visited many places including Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, Koryo General Hospital, and Sohae Lock Gate.

DPRK: Meeting Marks Week of North Korea-Iran Friendship

SK1705034396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0302 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — A friendship meeting with the Iranian Embassy officials was held at the Korea-Iran Friendship Pyongyang Chongsin Senior Middle School to mark a week of Korea-Iran friendship on May 16.

Present there were Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairwoman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and vice-chairwoman of the Korea-Iran Friendship Association, other officials concerned and teachers and students of the school. Iranian Ambassador to Korea Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari and his embassy officials were also invited.

Participants were shown round the good-equipped educational facilities and deepened their friendly feelings, seeing the performance of art circle and talking with each other.

DPRK: NDFSK Head in Syria Denounces NKP Efforts To Build Majority

SK1705123096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — Yi Nam-ho, chief of the Syria Mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK), said in an interview with the newspaper AL SAURA [name of publication as received] that the defeat of the "New Korea Party", the ruling party of South Korea, in the 15th "general election" held in April is a proper judgement and an inevitable result of the Kim Yong-sam group's anti-people, anti-national and anti-reunification moves, according to the Seoul-based Radio Voice of National Salvation.

The "NKP" tried in every way to recapture a majority in the "National Assembly", backed by power and money, but was defeated, he noted.

He said that the traitor Kim Yong-sam and the "NKP", the target of hatred, could not escape a stern punishment by history and their doom is a question of time.

DPRK: Korean Books Presented to Cambodian National Library

SK1805104696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0836 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA) — Famous works of the Great Leaders President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il and other Korean books were presented to the national library in Cambodia.

A presentation ceremony took place at the library on May 10.

The Cambodian side said it would actively introduce and propagandize Korean books among readers of various strata.

DPRK: Colombian President Receives Kim Yong-nam

SK2005114796 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 15 May, Colombian President Ernesto Samper Pizano received our country's Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, who is staying in this country to attend a conference of a minister-level committee of the nonaligned countries.

The Colombian foreign minister also attended the meeting. At the meeting, the Foreign Minister conveyed

greetings from the Great Leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Ernesto Samper Pizano.

Expressing deep thanks for this, the president asked the foreign minister to convey his most sincere greetings to the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, wishing him good health and a long life.

The president pointed out that friendly relations between Colombia and the DPRK were forged a long time ago, and have been developing. He noted that these relations will constantly develop in the future as well.

The president said that he highly appraises the important role played by the DPRK in the Nonaligned Movement. He stated that the DPRK sent a high-level delegation to the current conference of the minister-level committee, just as it did to the 11th summit of nonaligned countries last year. He stressed that this worked as a great contribution to the development of the Nonaligned Movement, and gave encouragement to the Colombian people.

DPRK: Revolutionary Parties Meeting in Belgium Laud DPRK Policies

*SK1705131996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0850 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — A seminar of revolutionary parties was held in Brussels from May 1 to 4.

Present at the seminar were a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea and delegates from the Belgian Labour Party, the Communist Party of Germany, the New Communist Party of Great Britain, the Workers Communist Party of Norway, the Communist Party of Denmark (Marxism-Leninism), the People's Democratic League of Portugal, the People's Communist Party of Spain, the Polish League of Communists "Proletariat", the Nepal Communist Party (UML), the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil and other political parties and the struggle organisations, 69 in all.

At the seminar under the subject "Anti-Imperialist Struggle Under New Order", speeches were made and opinions exchanged in connection with the anti-imperialist struggle in the Third World and the defense of socialism and a resolution on the DPRK was adopted.

The resolution said that they regarded aggressive provocation moves by the U.S. and the South Korean authorities against the DPRK as aggression against the world people, bitterly condemned them and supported the DPRK's effort to establish a new peace mechanism in the Korean Peninsula.

It strongly demanded an immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea.

A joint statement published by delegates of over 30 political parties to the seminar strongly demanded that a tentative agreement for peace be concluded between the DPRK and the U.S. at an early date and the South Korean authorities stop all kinds of military exercises at once and abolish the "National Security Law," an anti-reunification law, and pull down the concrete wall, a symbol of division.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks, Gifts to Veteran Agitators

*SK1705033296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0300 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks and gifts to veteran agitators in Tanchon city, South Hamgyong Province, who have briskly conducted agitation for eight years.

Head of the agitation group Hong Sun-chol and Pak Yong-sun, Won Song-yol and other veterans formed an agitation group in Feb., 1988 and conducted agitation over 1,300 times with many real combat stories during the fatherland liberation war to make a great contribution to mass education. They conducted agitation before 420,000 working people, soldiers of the People's Army and youth and students travelling over 63,500-ri.

DPRK: Meeting Lauds Kim Chong-il Publication on Sports

*SK1705045896 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0420 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — A meeting was held here on May 16 to mark the 10th anniversary of the publication of "On Popularizing Physical Training and Sport and Developing Sporting Skills Rapidly", a famous work of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. It dealt with tasks for effecting a new revolutionary upsurge in physical training and sport.

Published on May 19, 1986, the work provides a guarantee for developing the sporting skills of the country rapidly by making all the members of society take an active part in sporting activities, firmly preparing them for labour and defence and training many excellent reserve athletes.

The meeting touched on the remarkable progress made in all domains of physical training and sport through a powerful drive to popularize physical training and sport and make it an inseparable part of life under the wise

guidance of the party and the leader over the past 10 years.

It stressed that the popular sports with main emphasis laid on defence sports must be activated to firmly prepare all the people for the defence of the country and the general onward movement of socialism. It was also stressed that researches into sports science must be intensified and training of reserve players be conducted in a promising way to develop the general sports level of the country onto the world standard.

It was attended by Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council.

DPRK: Chang Chol Attends Meeting Marking Kim Chong-il's Work

SK1805104496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0327 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA) — A meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of the publication of "Let Us Effect a New Upsurge in Producing Works of Revolutionary Art and Literature", a famous work of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, was held here on May 16.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, in the work published on May 17, 1986, put forward the policies on creating a number of literary and art works picturing the greatness of the party and the leader, those on revolutionary traditions and the fatherland and those on national dignity, army-people relations and the diverse life of the servicemen of the People's Army to meet the demand of the development of reality.

He also elucidated in the work the principle and guideline that should be maintained in all sectors of art and literature including film, opera, music, dance and fine art.

Vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol in his report touched on the achievements scored in creation of revolutionary works of literature and art over the past ten years under the meticulous guidance of the respected General Kim Chong-il.

"All creators and artistes should, in the future, too, take the famous work of General Kim Chong-il as a highly important guideline to be taken forever in creative practice and create more literary and art works conducive to carrying out the revolutionary cause of chosae, so as to live up to the great trust and solicitude of the party with loyalty," he stressed.

DPRK: South Korean Writer Praises Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il

SK1805104496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0834 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA) — South Korean newsletter "Kwangmyong" carried an article "Spring of April Is Everlasting" by a South Korean writer Yi Myong-chol, who covered public sentiment, according to Seoul-based radio "Voice of National Salvation".

The author wrote that he saw and felt public sentiment in town and country which was overflowing with deep reverence for the Great Leader President Kim Il-song in the spring of April when he was born.

He wrote about members of the April 15 comradeship society who made a pilgrimage to Suanbo (set as Mangyongdae) in Chungju on April 15 for a supposed "visit to Mangyongdae, a holy land" to realise in the southern land their desire to visit the holy land where President Kim Il-song was born.

Inauguration of Paektusan Society named after Mt. Paektu, an ancestral mountain of the nation, was invigorated on the occasion of the 84th birth anniversary of the president, the writer said, and noted: Ardent and pure respect for President Kim Il-song and the leader Kim Chong-il is the mind of people in the capital and the rest of the country.

The trend of subscribing to the reminiscences of the president spread all over town and country on his 84th birth anniversary, said the writer. He quoted an official of a public security organ as saying that concern for the reminiscences is greater than "General Kim Il-song, Sun of the Nation" which was the most popular book in South Korea since it had been published in the 1960s. The aspiration of our people to read the reminiscences "With the Century", the biography of a great man, the best one in the world, will grow stronger, wrote the author.

He said how a certain Chu at an overseas affairs office arranged a photo exhibition with albums of photos of President Kim Il-song and the leader Kim Chong-il on the occasion of April 15, how the song movement "Sun and Star" disked or pamphleteered songs of respect and songs of praise for them and how young poets greeted in the spring of April. [sentence as received]

Telling a story of the keeper of the flower house in Yangpyong, Kyonggi Province, that demand for flowers increased more than treble, the writer said that all those coming to a place where a portrait of the president was hanging on April 15 were carrying bouquets and flowerpots.

The spring of April when President Kim Il-song was born is everlasting as there is the leader Kim Chong-il, stressed the writer.

DPRK: Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Praised by Foreign Artists

*SK1605131896 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0830 GMT 16 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA) — Poems praising the Great Leader President Kim Il-song and the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were created and published by participants in the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival held in Pyongyang in April this year.

The poem "He Still Appreciates My Song", created by Mitsuko Okasawara, chairwoman of the Japan-Korea Music and Art Interchange Society, says that thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is identical to President Kim Il-song, the April Spring Festival will go on forever and the president still appreciates her song.

In the poem, she looks back upon the fact that she would receive high praise and applause from the president for her good singing of "Evening of Pyongyang" at the festivals.

The poem says that the president is still beaming with a bright smile as ever.

Members of the Gold Oriole Folk Band of Bulgaria, in a poem "Comrade Kim Chong-il, He Is Heaven of Mankind", say that Comrade Kim Il-song will be immortal as the sun and the loyalty and filial piety of Comrade Kim Chong-il are as high as the heaven in which the president is the sun.

The poem says that Comrade Kim Chong-il is the heaven with a bright sun as well as the eternal heaven of mankind.

DPRK: 'Unprecedented' Rigging, Fraud in ROK Elections Alleged

*SK1805104996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0849 GMT 18 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA) — The propaganda department of the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) made public an indictment on May 13 exposing the truth behind the 15th "general election" held in South Korea on April 11 with unprecedented rigging and frauds in history, according to radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

The April 11 "general election" was not an exercise of the right of the people who should be masters of

power, but one of power and violence of the "civilian" dictatorship, the indictment said, and noted:

Aiming to "secure an overwhelming majority in parliament" through the "general election" the traitor Kim Yong-sam in violation of "the election law" that forbids civil servants to support candidates from any specific political parties, repeatedly called meetings of the "minister of the Agency for National Security Planning", the "minister of interior," the chairman and the secretary general of the "New Korea Party" and other bureaucrats at "Chongwadae" from the beginning of the year to discuss measures for the "general election". He summoned mayors and county and district heads under the "New Korea Party" to "Chongwadae" on January 19 and prattled about their "responsibility and role" in the 15th "general election". He even encouraged the "NKP" candidates on the phone in his office at "Chongwadae" on March 8.

"The Agency for National Security Planning" shadowed all the anti-"government" persons who were thought to be obstructive to their "election" rigging round the clock and resorted to coercive bribing and ceaseless pressure toward the opposition and independent candidates on the basis of information about their tendencies and public opinion.

"The Defence Security Command" issued to the agents of the secret affairs units an action program related to the "election" on January 19. The "National Police Agency" set up rooms dealing with "election" offences at 237 police stations across South Korea, formed special checkup teams and further intensified the fascist suppression of democratic patriotic forces.

Kim Yong-sam invited to a dinner at "Chongwadae" on January 31 heads of large business firms for whom heavy penalties had been demanded on the suspicion of bribing a former "president". At the dinner he asked them for "general election" support funds. And he selected heads of large business firms who responded to it, included them in his entourage during his trip to Southeast Asia in early March and squeezed over 800 billion won in check out of them on the guarantee of "privileges" in their investment overseas. And he stole more than one trillion won from the "national treasury", disturbed the security market in conspiracy with the "Ministry of Finance" and "security supervisors" on the pretext of the enforcement of "financial depositing in the real name" and raked up 500 billion won as "election" funds of the "NKP" through this malpractice.

According to the estimate of the "election control committee", the money spread by the "NKP" during the "election" exceeds 2 trillion won.

The "election" was full of intrigues.

The Kim Yong-sam group blackmailed the independent and opposition candidates who could obstruct the return of the ruling candidates, and bribed them to withdraw while they supported many independent candidates in the areas where the influence of the ruling party was weak, so that the votes for the opposition candidates could be divided. And they made camouflaged independent candidates run for the "election" in the district constituencies where they could not win in the name of the "NKP." This was a meticulously premeditated operation for "election" rigging.

They also wirepulled activities of all the press media as means of "election" rigging of the ruling party.

In the wake of the "general election" a campaign is going on to poach "lawmakers-elect" through bribery, trampling down the people's will.

The fascist group are manipulating the prosecution to blackmail the successful independents on suspicion of "election" rigging and asking them to join the "NKP" in return for valuables worth 2 to 5 billion won offered to each.

By committing the worst "election" rigging unprecedented in history, the Kim Yong-sam group have revealed the true colors as "civilian" fascists ruthlessly trampling underfoot the people's will.

There can be no "fair election", "clean election" or "election reflecting the people's will" under the colonial rule of the United States and the fascist repressive system of the "civilian" dictatorship.

The situation shows well that the overthrow of the "New Korea Party" of Kim Yong-sam is the only way of bringing about a new politics, new life and new system.

DPRK: NDFSK Chief Criticizes Kim Yong-sam on Kwangju Anniversary

SK1705044296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0416 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA) — Yi Chong-sang, chief of the Pyongyang Mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK), in an interview with KCNA on Thursday on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising said that the NDFSK fighters and people from all walks of life of South Korea are full of firm determination to overthrow the Kim Yong-sam fascist group, in the spirit of the Kwangju resistance martyrs, and realize their desire without fail.

The independence, democracy and reunification desired by the resistance fighters have not been realized till

today, though 16 years have passed, he said, adding that true colours of the United States, a wirepuller of the Kwangju massacre, is being concealed in the dark curtain and traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tac-u, main culprits of the massacre, are being protected.

The Kim Yong-sam group under the "civil government" are revealing their true nature as a colonial stooge and engaging in harsh suppression little different to the Kwangju massacre committed by former dictators, he said.

He said Kim Yong-sam must draw a lesson from the end of former dictators and stop at once suppression of the South Korean people fighting for independence, democracy and reunification and immediately step down from power as demanded by the people.

DPRK: ROK Opposition Parties Fight Moves by NKP To 'Destroy' Them

SK2005114396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0905 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA) — The "National Congress for New Politics," the "United Liberal Democrats" and the Democratic Party [no quote marks around Democratic Party as received] held a "Joint Measure Committee" meeting on May 17 and decided to take measures to provide against the moves of the "New Korea Party" to destroy opposition parties, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The opposition parties reaffirmed that they would not come into any formal and informal contact with "NKP" so long as "NKP" continues to bludgeon lawmakers-elect from opposition parties into it in a bid to hold a majority in the "National Assembly". They also decided to intensify propaganda campaign for exposing the maneuverings of the "NKP" to destroy the opposition parties through the press and other means and hold an exhibition for revealing the "general election" rigging by the ruling party in Youido, Seoul on May 24. The group of the "NKP" is troubled by the persistent offensive of the opposition parties.

South Korea

ROK: Police Fire Tear Gas at Students Protesting at U.S. Embassy

OW1805124896 Hong Kong AFP in English
1226 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 18 (AFP) — Riot police fired volleys of tear-gas shells to disperse some 3,000 radical students who converged on the US embassy here late Saturday [18 May] shouting "Yankee Go Home", witnesses said.

The students, commemorating the 1980 massacre of civilians in Kwangju by South Korean martial law troops, staged a sit-down in front of the downtown embassy building, AFP photographers said.

After calling through loudspeakers for the students to disperse, the police waited for five minutes then blasted the protesters with volleys of teargas and waded in with night-sticks.

No serious injuries were reported, but about 100 of the students were arrested and dragged off to waiting police buses, the photographers said.

The others fled as they had come, through subway entrances and side-streets, as clouds of teargas drifted into nearby restaurants and office buildings.

Radical students are demanding an apology from the US government for the massacre, charging that the US military command in South Korea in 1980 condoned the sending of hardened combat troops to Kwangju in 1980.

Jailed former president Chun Tu-Hwan, now on trial for his role in the massacre, has argued in court that troops had to be sent to Kwangju because of the threat from North Korea at the time.

The prosecution charges that the crushing of the uprising against the extension of martial law was part of a plot by Chun, who served as president from 1980 to 1988, to seize power.

ROK: Police Tear Gas 1,000 Students Outside U.S. Culture Center

*OWI905093596 Hong Kong AFP in English
0914 GMT 19 May 96*

[By Kim Jae-Hwan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kwangju, South Korea, May 19 (AFP) — South Korean police on Sunday [19 May] fired tear gas and erected barricades to stop some 1,000 anti-American student demonstrators from storming into a US cultural center here.

Hundreds of riot police with shields and tear gas rifles maintained a tight blockade around the US center, thwarting a repeated push by the radical students demanding Washington's apology, witnesses said.

The protesters brandished steel pipes, accusing the US military command in South Korea of failing to stop the dispatch of hardened South Korean combat troops to put down an uprising here in 1980, they said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, an AFP photographer said.

Dissidents here charge the United States with giving up partial jurisdiction, under then joint-command rules, over the movement of South Korean troops.

Sunday's violence followed a memorial rally in central Kwangju where some 2,000 people demanded death sentences for two former South Korean presidents jailed for their role in the Kwangju massacre, which left more than 200 people dead by official count.

"Death to the murderers," shouted the protesters during the rally in Keum Nam street, where soldiers loyal to ex-presidents Chun Tu-Hwan and No Tae-Wu shot down some 200 people 16 years ago.

Chun, who seized power through a 1979 coup, is suspected of masterminding the Kwangju massacre, which also left some 1,000 wounded.

Chun, 65, and No, 64, who return to court Monday, along with 14 other coup colleagues, are charged with corruption, mutiny and treason, which carry a maximum sentence of death.

Chun has said in court that the government at the time had no alternative but to put down the uprising because of the threat from communist North Korea.

The former general has denied prosecution charges that he ordered troops to open fire when citizens in Kwangju seized arms and rose up against the extension of martial law on May 17, 1980.

But prosecutors have charged that Chun masterminded the massacre to clear the way for his inauguration as president, which followed the arrest of thousands of opponents including incumbent President Kim Yong-sam.

Kim, the country's first dissident-turned-president, endorsed the jailing of his two predecessors, who were also accused of amassing massive slush funds from business tycoons during their consecutive presidencies from 1980 to 1993.

ROK: Editorial Examines DPRK's Armed Movements in MDL

*SK1905003396 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo
WWW in English 1205 GMT 18 May 96*

[Editorial: "North Korean High Jinx"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In its armed movements in crossing the Militarized Demarcation Line (MDL) yesterday, North Korea demonstrates its bravado once again. The latest movements into Yonchon, seem to be part of the North's scheme, not just to show off at Panmunjom, but to give the implicit message that it is the

entire DMZ that they choose to ignore. The implication of these hints are worrisome, because it calls into question the stability of areas which extend to the east, and to islands in the Western Sea, such as Paengnyong Island.

Whatever it is that the North Koreans are aiming for, they will not attain. In particular, North Korea's attempt to appeal to the U.S. can hardly be effective, as it is South Korea which has the primary position in the peace process of the peninsula. On the contrary, such actions merely damage the North's image, making it increasingly difficult to acquire desperately needed food and energy supplies. If the North insists on appealing to human kindness and brotherly love to gain assistance, then they should restrain themselves from such military action.

This is not the first such demonstration by North Korea this year. From April 5-7, soldiers staged armed demonstrations in Panmunjom, and again, on April 11, three soldiers crossed the central eastern portion of the MDL, advancing 200 m south. In each case, our military has been successful in countering the Northern troops. With the most recent incident, Northern soldiers were sent back with warning shot and announcements. However, these measures alone have proven ineffective. At this point, we need to open channels of dialogue to make it clear to North Korea that their actions are unreasonable.

We should expect the North Korean military to continue its demonstrations. More to the point, however, we need to determine just what it is that they are getting at. Whether the demonstrations are merely a strategic move to gain more from negotiations with the U.S. and the South; a test of our military capability, should we be engaged in a war; or merely a domestic affair of keeping the North Korean populace on its toes, in accordance with statements like, "the question of war is 'when?'." it is necessary to counter with appropriate measures.

ROK: World Food Program Report on DPRK Food Situation Cited

SK2005081596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0728 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP) — North Korea's food shortage, contrary to original estimates, is predicted to severely worsen between now and September, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said Monday.

The ministry quoted a recent report from the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization as painting a grimmer picture

of the stalinist nation's food situation than originally believed.

The food crisis in the North is expected take a turn for the worst between May and September, the WFP report said, adding that the food shortage would probably continue until 1997.

Most of North Korea's grain from last year's harvest has already been consumed and its food stockpiles are reaching dangerously low levels, the report pointed out.

The difficulty for North Korea to import any food, the extensive damage to 40,000 hectares of the nation's farmland from last year's floods, most of which have not recovered, and the unlikelihood of further foreign aid there in the near future have all contributed to the sudden worsening of the food situation there, the WFP said.

South Korea, the United States and Japan have all clearly stated that they currently have no plans to give additional aid, though they said that they would continue to monitor the north's food situation.

Most areas in the communist nation have been affected by the food shortage, the report continued, with Pyongyang sharply reducing its food rations and the supply of basic necessities. Therefore, it added, the North Korean people have had no choice but to seek alternative measures to keep from starving, such as eating grass, wild plants and tree bark.

Last year's floods in the North was the worst disaster in that nation's history, leaving about 500,000 people homeless, including 55,000 children under the age of five.

Pyongyang, in an unprecedented move, appealed for foreign aid thereafter, and the WFP has since donated 8.88 million U.S. dollars in rice and cooking oil, with 90 percent of the program's rice aid to the North having been delivered already.

ROK: DPRK Said To Show 'Willingness' To Host Some 2002 Cup Games

SK2005020896 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
20 May 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea conveyed its willingness to host some of the matches of the 2002 World Cup through an unofficial channel to the South Korean government, it was learned yesterday.

According to a government and business sources, Kim Yong-nam, North Korean Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, relayed his country's position on the matter to the South through a Korean businessman residing in

the United States around the end of last month when Kim visited Beijing, China.

The unidentified businessman who visited Seoul recently was learned to have conveyed the North's willingness to stage some of the 2002 World Cup finals to the concerned government authority, a business source said.

North Korea may ask South Korea to help construct necessary facilities on condition for staging some of the World Cup soccer games, he further said.

In the meantime, President Kim Yong-sam said Friday that South Korea will allow North Korea to host some of the World Cup matches in 2002 when and if it wins the right to host the soccer extravaganza.

ROK: DPRK Official on Okaying 4-Way Talks if 'Found Acceptable'

*SK2005094396 Seoul YONHAP in English
0915 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 (YONHAP) — North Korea's first vice foreign minister Kang Sok-chu on Monday hinted at the possibility of North Korea accepting the four-way talks proposed jointly by South Korea and the United States, the KYODO News Service reported from Pyongyang.

"We are still reviewing the overture and awaiting a U.S. explanation about the offer. But, we will accept it if it were found acceptable," Kang was quoted by KYODO as saying.

While meeting with a group of visiting Japanese journalists in Pyongyang, Kang also said it is important that North Korea and Japan improve their relations.

"The Japanese Government should come forward to talks with us without posing any prerequisites like the four-way meeting," he reportedly said.

Kang, the report said, stressed that normalization talks would be resolved simply if Japan apologizes to North Korea for its past conducts.

Regarding the issue of Kim Chong-il's rise to full power, Kang said, "His ascension is a matter of time, but I don't know when it would be." He added that Kim Chong-il has established his leadership in all areas of state affairs, the party and the military.

He also called for the implementation of the U.S.-North Korea agreement on the light-water reactor project. "Many people in our country doubt if light-water reactors could actually be built," he said.

Kang said his country intends to cooperate with the United States in many areas on the basis of agreements reached with the United States, according to KYODO.

ROK: ROK Intends To Give Aid if DPRK Accepts 4-Way Talks

*SK1805035796 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 18 May 96 p 2*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Top South Korean leaders said yesterday that Seoul intends to provide North Korea with economic aid if it accepts a South Korean-U.S. proposal for peace talks.

"...This proposal is closely related with the question of economic assistance to North Korea which is undergoing extensive difficulties," said Deputy Premier and Unification Minister Kwon O-ki.

If North Korea should continue to reject the proposal, Kwon said, the avenue toward ending its international isolation and overcoming its economic difficulties will remain closed.

Kwon's remarks, made at a seminar on Korean peace and roles of neighboring powers, came days after South Korea drew reassurances from the United States and Japan that they will not take steps to appease North Korea before it accepts the proposal.

During trilateral talks on a joint strategy for North Korea early this week, delegates from the three countries agreed that South Korea should take the lead in providing aid for North Korea.

In a speech to members of a presidential council on unification, President Kim Yong-sam said North Korea would be the greatest beneficiary of the peace talks he and U.S. President Bill Clinton proposed last month to hold with North Korea and China.

He said the four-party meeting proposal is the most reasonable proposal for North Korea now on the table.

Kim made similar remarks in an address to the annual conference of the Asia Society in Seoul last week.

Foreign Minister Kong No-myong also told the council members that North Korea has much to gain from engaging in dialogue with South Korea.

"In South-North relations, dialogue would become an invaluable magic box (for North Korea)," Kong said.

In his address to the seminar on peace on the Korean Peninsula, Deputy Premier Kwon emphasized North Korea must realize that it is only the "compatriots in the South" who can really extend them a helping hand.

If North Korea responds favorably to the four-party talks, the inter-Korean relations will witness a turning point for the reduction of tensions on the Peninsula and the establishment of a durable peace, Kwon said.

He indicated that severe economic problems of North Korea is stemming from its rigid socialist regime.

"Unless North Korea adopts policies of opening and reform, the difficulties it faces will never be solved," he said.

The problem is, Kwon said, that difficulties in North Korea threaten the stability of the entire Northeast Asia as well as the Korean Peninsula.

The deputy premier said it is therefore in the vital interests of South Korea and the four neighboring powers to remove the possibilities of such a threat by inducing North Korea to change in an orderly manner.

He stressed U.S. and Japanese relations with North Korea should develop in concert with progress in inter-Korean relations.

"We must realize that to do otherwise might encourage Pyongyang to behave opportunistically rather than to change constructively," he said.

Kwon also asked for more active role from China and Russia in persuading North Korea to move in the direction of reform and openness, thus contributing to stability on the Peninsula.

ROK: U.S. State Spokesman Cited on DPRK's Incursion in MDL

SK1805002396 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2300 GMT 17 May 96

[Report by Washington-based Cho Sun-hyong]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has stated that the 17 May intrusion into the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) by North Korean soldiers was a definite violation of the Armistice Agreement, though it was a small incident without victims, and urged North Korea to promise to investigate the real facts and prevent such an incident from occurring again.

Nicholas Burns, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, stated on 17 May: We do not know at all whether this move was ordered by the Pyongyang authorities or by a local commander and why it was done. However, we consider it a small violation of the Armistice Agreement in which no one was killed or injured.

Asked if the incident was an attempt by the group of North Korean soldiers to seek asylum, spokesman Burns answered he did not know. He said the United States will strongly urge North Korea to promise publicly to

reveal the real nature of the incident and strictly abide by the Armistice Agreement.

Despite North Korea's violation of the Armistice Agreement, the United States is repeatedly urging North Korea to resume direct dialogue with the ROK and accept the proposal for four-way talks put forward during the ROK-U.S. summit held on Cheju Island in April.

The United States believes that North Korea has shown a positive attitude toward the proposal for four-way talks though it has yet to express its clear position. The United States adheres to the stand that it is possible to hold a meeting to give North Korea a further explanation on the proposal for four-way talks any time, if North Korea wishes.

While considering the North Korean soldiers' intrusion into the MDL a small violation of the Armistice Agreement, the United States is repeatedly urging North Korea to resume inter-Korean dialogue and accept the proposal for four-way talks. It is presumed that the United States does not want this incident to damage the recent progress in U.S.-DPRK relations, such as that in negotiations on the repatriation of the remains of U.S. soldiers missing in action during the Korean war, as well as in the negotiations on the missile issue.

ROK: UNC Forms Task Force To Investigate 17 May MDL Incident

SK1805055396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 18 (YONHAP) — The Defense Ministry said Saturday that the joint defense alliance between South Korea and the United States will respond firmly to any provocation by the North which violates the Korean Armistice Agreement.

"The South Korean military maintains complete defense readiness for an immediate retaliatory response to any North Korean provocation," Defense Ministry Spokesman Yun Chang-no said in a press conference.

Yun was responding to the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) encroachment Friday afternoon by a group of North Korean troops in the demilitarized buffer zone.

The spokesman also pointed out that North Korean troops in the DMZ and similar activities in early April and its April announcement that it was abandoning its obligations stipulated by the armistice, constitute violations of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

Yun reaffirmed that the current Armistice Agreement must be honored until South and North Korea agree on a permanent peace regime for the Korean peninsula.

He also urged the North agree to the four-party peace talk proposal as soon as possible so the two can build mutual trust and work toward a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula.

The United Nations Command (UNC), meanwhile, formed a task force to investigate the incident in which seven armed North Korean Army troops crossed 20 to 30 meters into the southern portion of the demilitarized zone in Yonchon, Kyonggi Province, the spokesman said.

ROK: 'Punitive Action' Ordered Against DPRK Troops Crossing MDL

SK1805050996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 18 (YONHAP) — Army Chief of Staff Gen. Yun Yong-nam ordered Saturday all Army units deployed along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to take "a decisively punitive action" against any North Korean troops crossing the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] in the future.

The orders came after seven North Korean soldiers crossed the Military Demarcation Line separating the southern and northern portions of the DMZ Friday.

Yun said DMZ troops will take decisive action if North Korean soldiers take a single step southward to cross the truce line again, and pointed out that the Army is fully prepared for any kind of North Korean provocation anywhere at anytime.

ROK: Defense Ministry Reports Violation of Truce Line by DPRK

SK1805004696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0033 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 18 (YONHAP) — A group of seven armed North Korean soldiers intruded the truce line near Yonchon, Kyonggi Province, for an hour Friday, the Defense Ministry said.

The North Koreans returned to North of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] after being challenged by South Korean soldiers, who fired warning shots, the ministry said.

One North Korean officer and six soldiers intruded 20-30 meters into the South Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone near Yonchon at around 12:16 PM.

South Korean guards fired 14 warning shots toward the North Koreans, who stayed there for about an hour before returning to the North at around 1:12 PM, according to the Defense Ministry.

At around 9:44 AM Friday, three North Korean soldiers wearing no arm bands showed up at a point some 200 meters North of the MDL and fired four shots. The trio moved 300 meters to the east and fired a shot into the air. The South Korean guards warned them twice over the loud speaker, asking them not to shoot guns in the DMZ.

"The North Korean soldiers' violation of the MDL appears to be part of an attempt to neutralize the Armistice Agreement," a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

Earlier this year, on April 11 when the general elections were held in South Korea, three North Korean soldiers crossed 200 meters into the southern side of the buffer zone.

ROK: Dailies React to DPRK's 17 May Incursion Across MDL

SK1905094696

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of editorials and articles published in ROK vernacular dailies on 19 May on the incursion into the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] by armed North Korean soldiers.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO carries on page 3 a 600-word editorial "The North Creates Mischief Again." The editorial analyzes the North Korean intrusion into the MDL as an "attempt to highlight its policy of refusing to recognize the DMZ not only in Panmunjom but all over the entire DMZ." It then expresses concerns about the possibility of the expansion of such an armed provocation to islands in the East and West Sea. The editorial notes that ROK Army countermeasures against a series of provocations by the North since 5 April have been "very appropriate."

CHOSON ILBO also carries on page 3 a 500-word article by reporter Kim Chae-kwang on the ROK Government's reaction to the North's incursion into the DMZ. The article notes that government authorities have "asked the people not to interpret the North Korean acts as an expression of its refusal to accept the proposal for four-way talks." The article quotes a government official as saying that "North Korea does not have time to maintain military tensions with the South because it must make a decision on how to solve its serious economic and food problems." The same government official is also quoted as expressing the belief that North Korea "will accept" the four-way talks proposal. Another "core" government official is quoted as predicting that "It is unlikely that North Korea will drive the situation to an exchange of artillery fire, but the North will probably provoke an exchange of gunfire."

This official also says that "it is highly likely that similar incidents will occur in other areas such as on the western front." The article notes that if North Korea continues to conduct provocations, the ROK plans to bring the issue to a discussion at the UN Security Council.

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries on page 3 a 700-word editorial titled "Dangerous Provocation by North Korea." The editorial notes the North's provocation might be aimed at "securing an advantage and maximizing its interests in connection with the reorganization of order in Northeast Asia, following the proposal for four-way talks, by drawing the attention of the international community" as well as being aimed at "turning the eyes of the North Korean people, who are suffering from serious food problems, to the outside so as to consolidate their unity." Warning against the possibility that "such a provocation may develop into an armed conflict," the editorial calls the North's act a "really dangerous provocation."

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 a 700-word editorial titled "Was the North's Provocation a 'Small Incident?'" Pointing to the U.S. description of the North's intrusion into the DMZ as "a small incident without victims," the editorial says this is "a very wrong evaluation" and stresses that the incident was not a small thing. Reminding readers of the fact that in world history many wars have been caused by small disputes, the editorial warns the United States "not to minimize the violation of the Armistice Agreement by North Korea" and advises the ROK Government "not to depend upon the U.S. view."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries on page 6 a 600-word editorial titled "Provocations Resumed on the Truce Line by the North." The editorial begins by saying that North Korea "has poured cold water on the expectations of the international community that tensions on the Korean Peninsula would be eased with the proposal for four-way talks." The editorial then notes that this shows that North Korea's previous policy on the South is still being maintained even after the proposal for four-way talks — that is, North Korea still adheres to the "wild idea that it will discuss the peace issue with the United States while excluding the ROK." Saying that "we must assume a complete and strict posture to cope with possible military conflict," the editorial stresses the need for an "iron-tight ROK-U.S. joint defensive posture."

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 2 a 700-word article titled "What Is the North's Intrusion Into the DMZ Aimed at?" by Yi Sang-ki. The article notes the view within the National Defense Ministry that "aggravating military tensions and stalling

for time to the utmost, North Korea probably intends to make the ROK, the United States, and Japan make more concessions in return for its acceptance of the proposal for four-way talks." It continues by citing some experts as saying: "North Korea will likely continue similar provocations until it achieves economic assistance and diplomatic gains." The article also quotes a section of the military circles as viewing: "It is also possible that North Korean soldiers accidentally crossed the MDL to curb runaway soldiers of the North Korean Army."

ROK: Ministry Warns DPRK Against Continued 'Provocations'

SK1805034896 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0332 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] With regard to the 17 May intrusion into the DMZ at the central front by armed North Korean soldiers, the National Defense Ministry stated on 18 May that if North Korea continues to commit reckless provocations, it will take stern countermeasures in accordance with the ROK-U.S. joint defensive posture.

ROK: Article Analyzes DPRK's 17 May Military 'Provocations'

SK1805043896 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 18 May 96 p 3

[Article by Yi To-un: "Why Did the North Korean Army Perpetrate 'Provocations?'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 17 May, armed North Korean soldiers intruded into the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) and fired their rifles. This appears to be part of North Korea's persistent provocation method intended to neutralize the armistice system.

Since North Korea unilaterally withdrew its military delegation from the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) in 1994, North Korea proposed to the United States that a peace agreement be concluded to replace the Armistice Agreement signed in 1953. As such, North Korea continued to take steps to neutralize the armistice system.

In October 1994, North Korea took steps to make the PRC delegation withdraw from the MAC. Following this, in February 1995, North Korea forced the Polish delegation at the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission to withdraw. On 4 April, a few days before the 15th general elections in the ROK, North Korea declared it would suspend its duties for the maintenance and management of the MDL. After that, North Korea deployed armed soldiers in Panmunjom for three consecutive days from 5 to 7 April, and had them engage in building military encampment training. Moreover, it was belatedly

revealed that on 11 April — the very day of the general elections — armed North Korean soldiers crossed the MDL in the area of Yonchon, thus perpetrating provocations.

North Korea's 17 May DMZ provocations came after ROK President Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton on 16 April proposed the four-way talks among North, South Korea, the United States, and China, in a bid to build a durable peace regime on the Korean peninsula. Thus, North Korea's provocations attract the people's attention because the four-way talks proposal made at the ROK and U.S. summit is designed for the nations concerned to discuss, sitting face to face, the very peace regime called for by North Korea.

North Korea's provocations, perpetrated at a time when the ROK and the United States are waiting for North Korea's response to the four-way talk proposal, appear to be a red light signal, at least for the moment, in the course of realizing the four-way talks.

A relevant government official stated that "there has been an instance in which North Korea took an unexpected ultra-hardline step in the wake of turning around its policy. The recent provocations can be regarded as measures to strengthen its position toward the four-way talks and to accomplish its intention of making a counterproposal to the talks, though it may accept the four-way talk proposal in the end."

There is a great possibility that North Korea, irrespective of whether it accepts the four-way talks, will again kick off provocations in the areas along the MDL with a view to neutralizing the armistice system.

Since the government is maintaining a 24-hour tight guard of the MDL, North Korea's attempt for southward infiltration is impossible. However, the government is worried that North Korea's provocations may lead to serious armed clashes between the two sides.

ROK: DPRK Reportedly To Grant KEPCO Workers Diplomatic Privilege

*SK2005092096 Seoul YONHAP in English
20 May 96 p 1*

[Report by Cho Chae-yong from New York]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 19 May that the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO] and North Korea have concluded negotiations on a protocol to follow up the agreement on the supply of light-water reactors, and that chief delegates of the two sides will soon initial the protocol.

Sources say that the protocol comprises 25 points, including references to the privileges of KEDO employ-

ees, personal security of KEPCO workers, and consular protection. Concerning the treatment for the technicians of KEPCO, which was the most keen issue, the protocol reportedly stipulates that their personal security will be guaranteed and that they will be granted special privileges of diplomats as stipulated by international law.

KEDO and North Korea started negotiations from 4 April at the KEDO New York office. An agreement on the protocol was reached after six weeks. This will be the first of the 10 follow-up protocols for the agreement on the supply of light-water reactors.

The protocol reportedly stipulates that the North Korean authorities are to reserve exercising unilateral jurisdiction on KEPCO workers, so that, in principle, they will not be arrested or detained by the North Korean authorities. The protocol designates Sinpo, the light-water reactor site, and the neighboring ports as areas in which the workers will be given privileges.

Sources say that the protocol will be applicable to around 2,000 to 3,000 workers who will be sent to North Korea to work on the light-water reactor project.

North Korea had previously only agreed to grant diplomatic privileges to KEDO employees considering their status as employees of an international organization, and had disapproved of providing privileges for KEPCO workers, saying: "We do not have diplomatic relations with the ROK, the United States, and Japan, and the hostile relations have not been resolved."

ROK: KEDO, DPRK Set To Sign Diplomatic Privileges Protocol

*SK2005092096 Seoul YONHAP in English
0900 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, May 20 (YONHAP) — The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea have just about wrapped up negotiations on the protocol on the juridical status, privileges and immunities, and consular protection, and plan to initial it here on Tuesday, a ranking KEDO official said Monday.

Six weeks have passed since negotiations began April 4 in preparation for the implementation of the light-water nuclear reactor supply contract between the U.S.-led consortium and the communist country.

The protocol, if signed, will be the first of 10 follow-up protocols to be concluded for the implementation of the reactor provision accord, the official noted.

Under the protocol, the official disclosed, KEDO employees will be entitled to privileges and immunities in

accordance with international law. Employees and technicians of the Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO), the prime contractor, will receive privileges and immunities equivalent to those accorded diplomats, he added.

North Korea had refused to grant privileges and immunities to technical manpower for reasons of diplomatic practices but finally agreed to do at persistent requests from the KEDO, the official explained.

KEDO and the North also agreed that the North Korean authorities will not unilaterally exercise its jurisdiction over KEPCO technicians, and that the technicians will not be arrested or physically detained unless they are on charges of murder or other felonies.

Such privileges will be granted only in the Shinpo, the construction site for the light-water nuclear reactors, nearby piers and other areas related to the construction work.

ROK: Foreign Minister on Human Rights in DPRK, Ties With Japan

SK1805044096 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 May 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Kong No-myong said yesterday that it is time for the international community to press North Korea to stop human rights violations, drug trade and terrorism.

He made the remarks in a speech on the new diplomatic environment and orientation of Korea's diplomacy delivered to representatives of pro-Seoul organizations of Korean residents in Japan who attended a meeting in Seoul organized by the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification of Korea.

The foreign minister said that the government has sought to make North Korea a responsible member of the international community as one of the ministry's top priority tasks.

"North Korea will have to double its efforts to redress its reputation as a rogue country, while the international community will have to demand that North Korea move to improve its human rights, stop drug trade and abandon terrorism," the minister said.

North Korea has been notorious for its systematic, state-level human rights violations by setting up many concentration camps for political prisoners. North Korean diplomats have reportedly been engaging in drug trafficking to make money for the operation of their overseas missions because the Pyongyang government has almost stopped sending funds to them.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister said that North Korea is likely to accept the proposed four-party peace talks as

it is the most "rational" idea to bring peace and stability to the Korean peninsula.

"We have witnessed the international community's support on the proposal for the four-party talks, and the only thing remaining is North Korea's response," he said.

The four-party talks will help end the "persistent Cold War-style atmosphere" on the Korean peninsula in this post-Cold War era and build a stable peace structure until South and North Korea achieve ultimate unification, the minister said.

With regard to the status of Japan-based Koreans, the foreign minister said that Seoul will call on Tokyo to remove discrimination against Koreans in employment and political rights.

Kong pointed out that there are some bones of contention between the two countries, which include conflicting recognition on the past history, disputes on Korea's easternmost island of Tok-do and the aggravating trade imbalance in Japan's favor.

However, the foreign minister stressed that Seoul and Tokyo should work to establish a future-oriented relationship, which is possible only on the "righteous recognition of the past by the Japanese government and people."

Kong, meanwhile, said that Seoul will make efforts to support Russia in the process of democratization and its transition to a market economy. Korea will not spare any effort to help Moscow join the Asia-Pacific community, he added.

As for North Korean leader Kim Chong-il's power succession, the foreign minister said that as he is virtually ruling the northern half of the peninsula, he is likely to take over such titles as state president and general secretary of the North Korean Workers' Party after the "three-year mourning period" ends in July.

The minister said that social uncertainty reigns in North Korea because of economic crises, which are reflected by the successive requests for asylum by North Koreans belonging to the power elite class.

ROK: ROK Red Cross Delivers Cooking Oil Shipment to DPRK

SK1805010396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0051 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 18 (YONHAP) — The Korean National Red Cross (KNRC), for relief efforts for last year's floods in North Korea, said Saturday that it has delivered a shipment of cooking

oil worth 330 million won (424,164 U.S. dollars) to its North Korean counterpart.

A ship carrying 186,624 liters of corn oil arrived at the North Korean port of Nampo Friday after departing Thursday from Inchon, a KNRC spokesperson said, and was given through members of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent stationed in North Korea.

The aid package, the fourth of its kind, will be enough for about 130,000 people in 26,000 households over three months, the source added.

In addition to the cooking oil, the KNRC thus far has sent 10,000 blankets, 100,000 servings of instant noodles, and 20,000 pairs of socks for the North Korean flood relief effort. The four shipments were worth a total of 640 million won (822,622 dollars).

"Under current government regulations, sending cash, rice or grain to North Korea is difficult," the spokesperson said, "but if any organization donates money or supplies, we can purchase or obtain items requested by North Korea and sent them there."

ROK: Japan To Attach Condition to DPRK Party Delegation's Visit

SK1805011796 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 20 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 20 (YONHAP) — Japan's ruling coalition will receive a delegation of the North Korean Workers' (Communist) Party's representatives when they visit Tokyo in late May at the invitation of the Social Democratic Party [SDP] on condition that Pyongyang will accept the four-party meeting proposal for Korean peace talks, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Monday.

The three components of the ruling coalition — Liberal Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake — will confirm such position at a high-level policy coordination meeting slated for Monday, the report said.

The SDP is expected to ask the North Korean party to postpone its mission's visit to Japan, the mass-circulation Japanese-language newspaper said.

The party decided to ask Workers' Party to send a mission to Tokyo toward the end of this month at a caucus held last Thursday.

ROK: Mayor of PRC's Dandong Says DPRK Maintaining Peace, Order

SK1805140996 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 18 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Liu Tingyao, mayor of Dandong City, PRC, revealed today that regardless of rumors of a food crisis, North Korea is maintaining peace and order internally.

Mayor Liu of Dandong City, which faces North Korea with the Yalu River in the middle, said it is a fact that North Korea's food production was greatly reduced due to flooding last year, but public order is being maintained well and there are no people escaping toward the Dandong side.

Mayor Liu also said there are some cases in which North Korean companies are not paying for goods they have imported, but he explained that such incidents are very scarce.

Mayor Liu added that the volume of trade between Dandong and North Korea last year amounted to \$100 million, which is an increase of \$30 million compared to 1994.

ROK: DPRK Watcher on Kim Chong-il Power Succession

SK1805060696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0220 GMT 18 May 96

[ak1805044796]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, May 18 (YONHAP) — North Korea's Kim Chong-il is unlikely to rise to full power even this summer, the second anniversary of Kim Il-song's death, a North Korea watcher said here Friday.

The observation was made by Pak Kap-tong, chairman of the Korean Front for Democratic Unification and National Salvation, during its ninth standing committee meeting.

"It is certain Kim Chong-il has been driven into a minority in North Korea," Pak said. "There is neither a group outwardly objects to Kim Chong-il nor a faction that firmly supports him."

His contention was that if Kim Chong-il were to ascend to the Workers' Party general-secretaryship, a party convention would be convened to okay his rise.

"But, it is uncertain whether the party central committee supports him, and the North is not now in a position to call a Supreme People's Assembly session this summer," he said.

Pak's Korea front is an organization of those former high North Korean officials who have escaped Kim Il-sung's one-man rule. Pak himself was the top-ranking party official in the South [as received] during the 1950-53 Korean war.

He went on to maintain that the reports that Kim Chong-il is in full control of the North Korean military are unfounded.

This he said is apparent if it is realized that it took at least seven months to appoint a new People's Armed Forces minister after the death of O Chin-u.

The Moscow meeting adopted a resolution calling for democratic reform in North Korea.

The resolution said in part that North Korea is now in a state of anarchy without any party or state head due to power struggles among the remnants of the Kim Il-sung clique.

"There should be no hereditary power succession and democratic reform must begin in North Korea as soon as possible," the resolution said.

Others attending the meeting included Yi Sang-cho, former North Korean ambassador to the former USSR; Kang Sang-ho, ex-vice home minister; Chong Sang-chin, ex-vice culture and propaganda minister; and Chang Hak-pong, ex-superintendent of political military officers school.

ROK: Belgian Trade Mission To Visit Seoul 3-4 June

*SK1705131596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0727 GMT 17 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 17 (YONHAP) — A trade delegation from Flanders, Belgium, will visit Seoul June 3-4 to provide information about business opportunities in the Belgian Province and to build contacts with Korean businessmen interested in expanding their activities in Europe.

According to the Belgian Embassy in Seoul Friday, the delegation will include representatives from regional development agencies of Belgium's Flemish Provinces and experts in tax, finance and legal issues.

The seminar "Business Opportunities in the Heart of the European Union" will be presented at the Hilton Hotel June 4, and is being organized in conjunction with the Small and Medium Industries Promotion Corp. and the Electronic Industries Association of Korea.

Specialists will give presentations on successfully conducting business in Europe from different points of view at the seminar, including the experiences of Korean businesses in the region.

ROK: DPRK Envoys in Tanzania Probed for Selling Elephant Tusks

*SK1905082896 Seoul YONHAP in English
0808 GMT 19 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 19 (YONHAP) — North Korean diplomats came under fire by Tanzanian authorities for possible involvement with an attempt to smuggle out high-priced elephant tusks from Tanzania.

North Korean diplomats were warned by the Tanzanian Government once already in connection with a large elephant tusk smuggle attempt in 1994, and the North Koreans, who are involved with this case, have already been branded as *persona non grata* and they may be ordered to leave Tanzania, a highly-placed Foreign Ministry source said Sunday.

The source said two North Korean diplomats and an embassy staff have been investigated by the Tanzanian authorities since May 4, when they were caught in the middle of smuggling out 960 pieces of elephant tusks from Tanzania, quoting reports from the South Korean Embassy in Tanzania. "Tanzanian law enforcement authorities are unlikely to let them go easily, this time and deal a stern punishment to them." The source said, still quoting the report. [two preceding sentences as received]

Tanzania, a leader in the Nonaligned Movement, has been very friendly to North Korea, a fellow nonaligned country, but has had its share of trouble lately with North Korea over the repeated illegal elephant tusk trade, the source said.

An elephant tusk sells for several thousand U.S. dollars and the North Koreans were attempting to meet the embassy expenses by trading in elephant tusks, which shows the kind of financial difficulty that they have been under, the source said.

Hyon Sung-il and his wife, who defected to Seoul when they were serving with North Korean Embassy in Zambia, in January, said Pyongyang stopped sending money to its diplomatic missions overseas, and they are left to fend for themselves financially.

ROK: Ministry 'Drastically' Reduces Semiconductor Export Goals

*SK2005081496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0620 GMT 20 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP) — South Korea has drastically reduced semiconductor export goals.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) announced Monday that due to a worldwide decline in

chip prices it has lowered its original export projection from 30.7 billion dollars to 25 billion dollars this year.

It is the first time that MOTIE has revised an export goal to such large extent before the first half of a year had elapsed.

The downward adjustment might mean that this year's trade deficit will grow from the 7 billion dollars originally predicted to 10 billion dollars, a MOTIE official worried.

The international going rate for 4- and 16-mega drams stood at 7 dollars and 24.4 dollars, respectively, in April. The figures represent a 52.4 and 55.7 percent drop in prices, respectively, the officials said.

South Korea exported 6.15 billion dollars in chips during the first quarter of the year, surpassing the original goal of 6.1 billion dollars, but outbound shipments have dropped sharply since April, making it unlikely that the yearly goal will be achieved.

Last month's largest trade shortfall ever of more than 2 billion dollars stemmed largely from sluggish semiconductor exports, the officials explained.

South Korea exported 22.12 billion dollars worth of semiconductors last year, 17.7 percent of total exports.

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